

Introduction: What do you expect this Christmas?

Principle:

What you consciously or unconsciously expect to happen, even how you think God will work or might work, can blind you to God actually working in a way that is different than you expect.

For a child will be born to us, a Son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Mighty God in Hebrew – Deliverer, Rescuer, Irresistible Champion, All-Powerful One

Three parables that describe the Kingdom of God:

1. The Kingdom of God is like a lamp – God’s Word comes into the world to illuminate, make things clear, and to reveal truth.
2. The Kingdom of God is like a growing seed – The power of God’s Word in a human heart brings transformation over time.
3. The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed – People respond to the truth and then there is exponential growth.

Four impossible situations

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| 1. Jesus calms the sea. | Mark 4:35-41 |
| 2. Jesus heals a demoniac. | Mark 5:1-20 |
| 3. Jesus heals a woman. | Mark 5:21-34 |
| 4. Jesus resurrects a dead girl. | Mark 5:21-43 |

Summary

1. He is the Lord over the _____ realm.
2. He is the Lord over the _____ realm.
3. He is the Lord over the _____ realm.
4. He is the Lord over the _____ realm.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do your expectations of what/how you think God should work, impair your ability to recognize Him at work?
2. How did Jesus demonstrate His divinity and authority in Mark 4:35-5:43?
3. Do you struggle to believe that God governs over the natural, spiritual, physical, or eternal realm? If so, why?
4. What is the biggest obstacle, circumstance, or relationship in which you need to see God's power prevail?
5. Describe a time when God has intervened in your life.