

“Expect To Be Surprised”

Sermon Series: Stewarding the Gifts of God (Week 4)

Sermon

Nehemiah 8:1–10; Luke 4:16–30

January 27, 2019

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1) The word of God is **powerful**.

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. *(Hebrews 4:12)*

What do you expect to happen when you hear the Word of God?

2) Sometimes, we need to be reminded that **God's plan** is not always the same as **our plan**, and it is **bigger than us**.

⁸“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. ⁹“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” *(Isaiah 55:8–9)*

3) God is constantly **surprising us**.

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father... ^{17b} that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. *(Ephesians 3:14, 17b–19)*

4) God's Word isn't just surprising and comforting. It is **life-giving**.

¹ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” *(Matthew 4:1–4)*