

MAIN POINT

Jesus is the unexpected King who has come to reign on the throne of our hearts.

INTRODUCTION

What are some examples of times when it is important to set right expectations in advance?

When was a time you were disappointed by misplaced or unmet expectations?

Many times, our expectations determine the level to which we will be satisfied with a given outcome. If we expected one thing but received something else altogether, we may be disappointed even if what we received is actually better than what we hoped for. During Jesus' life on earth, the Jewish people were expectant of a Messiah but many of them had wrong expectations of what the Messiah would come to do. Many of them expected Him to come to rule on an actual throne in political power. In light of these expectations, many people rejected the truth about Jesus. People still reject Jesus because He is not what they expect. Today, we will consider the reality that Jesus is the unexpected King who has come to reign on the throne of our hearts.

DISCUSSION

> **READ 2 SAMUEL 7:12-14; JOHN 18:33-36; ISAIAH 53:1-3.**

How do these passages point to Jesus being an unexpected King?

Considering the passages from 2 Samuel and Isaiah, why do you think God told His people of Jesus' coming centuries before His arrival? How might this have impacted their expectations?

Read Luke 1:30-33, Luke 4:18-21, Revelation 19:11-16, and Revelation 21:1-4. What words or phrases describe the type of ruler Jesus is and the type of kingdom He is establishing?

What promises of God give you hope and assurance when life doesn't go like you thought it would?

In John 18, what does it mean that Jesus' kingdom is not from this world? What implications does this have for the nature and impact of His kingdom on this world?

How was Jesus described in Isaiah 53:1-3? What about this description would be unexpected?

Isaiah said that the people who saw the servant would not value Him. How is Jesus despised and devalued today? How is this connected to wrong expectations?

In what ways are you guilty of underestimating or rejecting Jesus? What can keep you from this type of thinking?

APPLICATION

What does the way you spend your time and resources say about who or what reigns on the throne of your heart? What is keeping you from giving that place to Jesus? What needs to change and what steps will you take to make the necessary changes?