



# GREAT EXPECTATIONS

*“Believing God for the Unseen”*

Luke 1:26-31; 36-39

1. *To believe God for the unseen – I must accept that for some reason – God loves me. I matter to Him, and He entrusts me with His plans to bless me.*

- V 1:28, 30 - “favored one.”
- V 45 – “Blessed is she who believed...”
- Jn. 15:16 “You did not choose me, but I chose you **and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit** and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.” (ESV)

GREAT  
EXPECTATIONS



2. *To believe God for the unseen – I must discover that Jesus is real “food,” and only Jesus can fill my “hungry” place with his good. His food is my strength.*

- 1:53 “He has filled the hungry with *good* things.”
- Hungry?
  - Deut 8:3
  - John 6:33,35
- 1:50, “good” – And his *mercy* is for those who *fear him* from *generation* to *generation*.

GREAT  
EXPECTATIONS



3. *To believe God for the unseen – I must commit myself to God’s will and plan, whatever that might be.*

A. She “wrestled” with her doubts. V 34.

B. She believed him for the impossible.

C. She committed her will to His plan.

- Be it done to me ... v 38.
- Not intellectual act.

D. She acted on what was given.

- God gave the witness. v39.

GREAT  
EXPECTATIONS



- *Nothing is impossible for God.*
- Gen 18:14, “Is anything too hard for the Lord? ...”
- Mat 19:26, “... With men this is impossible, but with all things are possible.”
- Luke 1:37, “For nothing will be impossible with God.”
- Mark 14:36, “ ... Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

GREAT  
EXPECTATIONS



4. *Mary's point of decision exchanged her plans for God's plans. It was her **anchor** for the difficulties the future would hold for her.*

- But Mary treasured up all these things, **pondering them in her heart**. (Lk. 2:19 ESV).
- And Simeon blessed them and **said to Mary his mother**, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (Lk. 2:34 ESV)
- And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. **And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart**. (Lk. 2:51 ESV)

GREAT  
EXPECTATIONS



# Next Steps: For the last Sunday of 2024, what steps need you take for 2025?

1. I matter to God. He has chosen me. I am choosing to embrace his having done so.
2. Jesus is my read food. I am recommitting myself to that fact and arranging my life so I do not miss the food that will give me the strength to embrace the unexpected.
3. I choose to commit my life to God's plan for my life, whatever that might hold.
4. I will believe him for the impossible.

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EXPECTATIONS

