

Introduction:

1. When we hear the word “unexpected” what thoughts come to our minds?
 - a. It can mean something unforeseen, startling, surprising, astonishing, or even mysterious.
 - b. Many things in Jesus’ life were unexpected. People were often surprised by His miracles. Folks were astonished by His teaching. His unique birth was a startling revelation to Mary.
2. But there is one amazing, brief period of time that is our focus—the time of His death!
 - a. Few people know how unexpected the events of that one three-day period were—the events from Friday to Sunday. In fewer than 72 hours a series of unexpected events occurred.
 - b. We will see those events from the standpoint of those who were there!

The Lesson:

I. We go first to Judas.

- A. Judas is one of the twelve apostles, the one who will betray Jesus. He will do anything for money; even steal from the poor, [John 12:3-6](#). Money motivates him now, [Matthew 26:14-16](#).
- B. But, it seems Judas does not expect Jesus to be condemned, [Matthew 27:3-5](#). He has seen Jesus work many miracles. “Will Jesus now save Himself by a miracle?” Is that his thinking?
- C. If you were in the place of Judas, what would you have expected if you had betrayed Jesus?

II. We go to find Peter.

- A. Peter, the impulsive, the braggart. He, like Judas, is an apostle, but he will not betray Jesus. In fact, Peter is the one who confessed Jesus as the Christ in [Mark 8:29](#). But then, Peter is so bold as to rebuke Jesus, [Mark 8:31-33](#). See also [Mark 9:30-32](#).
- B. Peter doesn’t expect Him to die. He can’t conceive it! Is that why he boasts? [Matthew 26:31-35](#). He will deny Him (Matthew 26:69-75). Jesus will die, though Peter hadn’t anticipated it!
- C. If you had heard all that Peter had heard, would you have expected Jesus to die?

III. We find two disciples near Emmaus.

- A. We know the name of only one—Cleopas, [Luke 24:13-14](#) (18). This scene is on day three; Friday, Saturday Sunday! Jesus died on Friday. What is the reaction of these two disciples?
- B. It is one of hopelessness, [Luke 24:19b-21a](#). These men are about to receive the shock of their lives. But at this point, they only know Jesus has died; they believe hope is gone.
- C. If you were with those disciples, would you also believe hope is gone?

IV. We turn to the enemies.

- A. They are those religious men who insisted that Jesus must die. They have hated Him from the beginning. He is a thorn in their side, a threat to their power; a challenger to their manmade doctrines. In their minds, there is but one solution: He must be eliminated, [Matthew 26:57-66](#).

- B. Jesus will die! What do they expect next? Grave robbers! [Matthew 27:62-66](#). They get the unexpected: A resurrected Jesus, [Matthew 28:11](#). That's why the guards—who know the truth—are paid to lie, [Matthew 28:11-15](#). They do not anticipate resurrection, but that's what they got!
- C. If you had been on that council—an enemy of Jesus—what would you have expected?

V. We now go to meet Mary of Magdala.

- A. Mary is one of those several women who have followed Jesus from early in His ministry. She is also there at the end, [Matthew 27:55-56a](#). Following the Lord's crucifixion, she helped with the burial, [Matthew 27:61](#); [Luke 23:55-56](#). The typical method of burial is to wrap the body in long strips of linen, wrapping spices and ointments within the windings.
- B. What do you think Mary Magdalene expects to happen? Not the resurrection of a dead man! Let's watch her as she returns to the tomb on Sunday morning, [John 20:1, 11-16](#). Mary didn't anticipate His resurrection, but it has happened! The unexpected!
- C. If you were Mary, having heard much of Jesus' teaching, would you anticipate resurrection?

VI. Finally, we go to the twelve apostles.

- A. Mary is among those women who report the resurrection to the apostles, [Mark 16:9-11](#).
 - 1. It is clear that the apostles do not anticipate Jesus' resurrection. Instead of waiting for the resurrection, they are still mourning over His death. They do not believe Mary's report.
 - 2. When Jesus finally appears to the apostles, He severely rebukes them because they did not believe His words or the reports of the resurrection, [Mark 16:12-14](#).
- B. The enemies didn't expect resurrection; Mary is astonished by it; the disciples can't believe it!
 - 1. The power of this evidence cannot be overestimated. Someone would say, "The disciples dreamed up the resurrection story. The gospel they preached was a fabrication." Those disciples didn't even believe Jesus would die. When He died, they did not believe He would be raised. When He was raised, they did not anticipate preaching a message of resurrection. Peter said, "I am going fishing," (John 21:3).
 - 2. This is evidence that the gospel of resurrection is not a fabrication. The disciples didn't even conceive of preaching resurrection until Jesus told them to do so. The unexpected!
- C. If you were among these disciples would you react in a different way than they did?

Conclusion:

- 1. But, what about Jesus? Did anything take Him by surprise? What about God in heaven? Was this all unexpected by Him? No! Nothing was unexpected by the Father or Son! See [Acts 2:22-24](#).
- 2. And what about you? Did you ever expect that someone would come from heaven and love you so much that He would die for you? That's what Jesus did. How can you keep from loving Him?
- 3. You need to know what some preachers may not tell you: God expects something of you, [Luke 9:23](#). All through this lesson I have asked "How would you have reacted...? Now, the question is, "How will you react?" Will you do what the Lord expects of you? See [Acts 2:38](#); [Revelation 2:10](#).