

Dead in Our Expectations
2 Kings 13:10-25, Pew Bible p. 320
January 21, 2024

I. When We Can't Expect God to Work (V. 10-13)

A. We cannot expect God to work simply because He has worked in the past.

B. We cannot expect God to work apart from a holy life in Him.

II. Why We Don't Expect God to Work (V. 14-19)

A. We don't expect much of God because we can't tell the difference between God's promises and our preferences.

B. We don't expect much of God because we're afraid of how much it will make us want to change.

III. How God Works When We Don't Expect (V 20-25)

A. God rewards our faith, but He does not need our permission to work.

B. God rewards our obedience, but His works are not dependent on our works.

Group Discussion Questions

1. Read 2 Kings 13:10-25.
2. Why do you think King Jehoash did not fully turn from idolatry, given the history of God's work in his family? Have you ever failed to appreciate the work of God in the past? What did that look like?
3. How can the great prophet Elisha die of a common illness? What does that tell us about God and His miracles?
4. How could King Joash be a wicked king and care so much about Elisha's death? Is it possible for someone to believe in God enough to fear for their wellbeing, but not enough to repent of their sin? Why?
5. What did Elisha see in Joash's heart when he only struck the ground three times, according to verse 19? Do you think it is possible for Christians today to settle for less than what God has promised? How and why?
6. What does God's work for Israel in verse 23 say about God's character in the face of faithless people? How does that give you hope in times when people don't expect much of God, including yourself?
7. Pray for our church members to prioritize our relationship with God over all other struggles of life. Come to the church prayer meeting this Wednesday from 6:00–6:30 pm in Worship Center Room 103.

Church Reading Plan (1/22-1/28)

Read Ephesians 1-6

John 17:20-23 (ESV)

²⁰ "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting

- PRAYING for God's direction in filling staff vacancies in the year 2024 and for the Lord to unite our church in an important season of change.

Pray for Our Church Family Needs:

- PRAY for missions and missionaries:
Andy & Lindsay M. in Spain; Luke P. in Maricopa, Arizona; Nathan & Becky F. in Indonesia; Doug & Cheryl D. in Thailand; Jules S. in Thailand; and Sylvia M. and Andrew M. at ASU West, Glendale, Arizona.
- PRAY for all our students: elementary school, middle school, high school, and college. No matter whether they are in the classroom, an online setting, or a home school setting, our students are forming minds that need to focus on Christ.
- PRAY for family & friends of church members who need salvation or to renew their relationship with Jesus:
Sharon L. (children & grandchildren); Marge D. (son, Matthew); Rezwana D. (parents); Margaret J. (Tom & Bob); Sophia W. (husband); Ida S. (granddaughter & her husband); Charity M. (daughter); Kayla P. (nephew, Jordan); and Gary & Betty B. (grandchildren & siblings)
- PRAY for families who are grieving the recent loss of loved ones:
Nancy C., Marie B., and Yvonne P & families (husband & father); Greg C. (wife); family of Sam B.; and Dorothy C. (sister's husband)
- PRAY for those struggling with ongoing health and other issues:
Michelle L. (health); Leon V. (chemo); Jan B. (health); Stan & Twyla H. (health & other issues); Mimi M. (health); Edna N. (health); Helene D. (eyesight); Elaine W. (health); Kelly J. (health); John & Debbie P. (health); Ed G. (health); Marge D. (health); Anne W. (chest pain/lung issue); Michelle LaM. (upcoming procedure/CT scan; financial concerns); Rita H. (surgery recovery); Laura M. (health); Ken & Darlene R. (health); Debbie B. (surgery recovery); Nancy S. (rehab); Margaret J. (surgery recovery); Larry D. (surgery recovery); Ann C.-W. (cough/fatigue); April H.-F. (surgery recovery & upcoming treatment); Sherri O. (upcoming heart surgery); and Dave C. (surgery recovery)
- PRAY for others that you are aware of.