

## Expectations Shattered

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

### Look

Some would say that “expectations are just disappointments in progress”, and indeed expectations can be dangerous things. When our expectations are shattered, we can find ourselves in a dark place, unable to see the good things still going on.

1. What was a big expectation you had that fell through and shattered your world? How did you feel during that time?
2. What good things were still going on in the midst of all that challenge?
3. Who helped you to get through that time, and what support did they give you?

### Book

#### Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptist, a good man and a prophet of God, is in prison. He was put there for being a protestor. John was called to prepare the way for the Messiah, but even he probably didn't expect this outcome for himself.

1. How would you describe John's frame of mind from the way his question is asked?
2. Instead of a direct answer, what sort of message does Jesus send back for John?
3. What about the people of this time made them especially hungry for a message of hope?

### Took

Failed expectations can trigger a focus on fears and frustration. However no matter how dark things are, there are always good things happening around us. These good things help stoke God's Hope in our own hearts and minds.

1. Why is Hope such an important virtue to you right now in your life?
2. Where do you find, or who inspires the most fuel for your own Hope?
3. Who do you feel called to help inspire Hope in this week?