

# Sunday, January 2, 2022

*1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."*

## Reviewing My Expectations New Year's Devotional for 2022

**Text:** Acts 3:1 – 26 and Matthew 11:25 - 30

Purpose: I want to MOTIVATE my congregation to review their EXPECTATIONS of the Lord for this New Year and for all their walk with Jesus.

### Introduction:

~ The devotional closing 2021 was from Micah 5:1 - 15 and was entitled "Behold the King"

1. Bethlehem the King is Born
2. Jerusalem the King is Crucified
3. Mount Zion the King Returns

~ As I was reflecting on the past year and meditating on the coming year, 2022, and what it might hold, two songs came to mind; the first an old one by Doris Day, "Whatever will be will be the future is not ours to see!" Very fatalistic and somewhat hopeless.

~ The second song was a hymn by Ira F. Stanphill, copyright 1950, and entitled "I Know Who Holds Tomorrow." That was the pre service song.

~ The second song is NOT fatalistic but FAITH filled because of a personal relationship with the author of life who loves us and abides with us.

### 1. Reflections on Acts 3:

~ Acts 3:2, "*And a man lame from birth was being carried...to ask alms of those entering the temple.*"

~ Acts 3:3, "*Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms.*"

~ Acts 3:5, "*And fixing his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them.*"

~ Acts 3:6, the lame man's expectation was altered and exceeded!

~ Acts 3:6, this was "*In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,*"

~ Acts 3:8, notice the lame man's reaction!!!

~ Acts 3:12 – 16, Peter's response to the crowd.

### 2. Reflections on Matthew 11:25 - 30:

~ Matthew 11:27, Almighty God knew our response to the gospel!

~ Matthew 11:28, the invitation is to ALL, but not all people have faith. Hebrews 11:1 - 6

~ Matthew 11:28, is a PROMISE of rest from our own efforts to merit anything from God!

~ Matthew 11:29, we are instructed to TAKE the yoke; the yoke harnesses our effort resulting in productivity!

~ Matthew 11:29 – 30, the PROMISE - laboring with Jesus results in divine rest.

### 3. Reflections on My/Your Calling:

~ Ephesians 1:3 – 6, "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, (4) even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love (5) he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, (6) to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.*"

~ Ephesians 2:10, "*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*"

~ Ephesians 5:1, "*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.*"

~ Ephesians 5:32, "*This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.*"

~ Matthew 6:33 – 34, "*But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*"

### Conclusion:

Ephesians 3:20 – 21, "*Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, (21) to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*"