

Sermon Title: “What God Expects From You”

Opening Thought

Most people walk into life thinking:

“God expects more from me... and I’m not measuring up.”

Or People are telling you “God expects more from you... and you're not measuring up.”

They feel pressure...

They feel guilt...

They feel like they’re always behind.

But what if I told you—

? God is not expecting a version of you that doesn’t exist yet.

Scripture Foundation

? 1 Samuel 16:7

“Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

? Psalm 139:1–2

“O Lord, you have searched me and known me... You understand my thoughts from afar.”

? God already knows you—fully.

Not the church version of you...

Not the cleaned-up version of you...

The real you.

Main Point #1 — God Already Sees What You Are

You don't surprise God.

- If you're kind... He sees it
- If you're struggling... He sees it
- If you're lost... He sees it

? So in that sense, yes...

God expects what He already sees.

If you haven't been coming to church—
God already knows that.

If you've been trying to do right—
God already sees that.

There's no pretending with Him.

Transition (Shift the Understanding)

But here's where people get it wrong—

They think:

“Since God sees me as I am... He must be fine leaving me as I am.”

No.

Main Point #2 — God Meets You Where You Are, But Doesn't Leave You There

? Romans 5:8

“While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Not after you fixed yourself.

Not after you got your act together.

? While you were still in it.

That means:

- God meets you in your current state
- Not your future potential

But...

? Matthew 4:17

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

He doesn't just meet you—

? He calls you forward.

Illustration Story — “The Dirty Mechanic”

There was a man who worked in a garage every day.

Covered in grease.

Hands stained. Clothes worn out.

One day, he gets invited to a formal dinner.

And he says:

“I can't go looking like this.”

But the host sends word back:

“Come as you are.”

So the man shows up—dirty, ashamed, uncomfortable.

But when he walks in...

The host doesn't say:

“Stay like that.”

Instead, he says:

“I've already prepared a place for you... now let me clean you up.”

? That's God.

He says:

“Come as you are...”

But He never says:

“Stay as you are.”

Main Point #3 — God Doesn't Expect Performance... He Expects Surrender

People think:

- Go to church more
- Be nicer
- Try harder

And THEN God will accept them.

But that's backwards.

? Ephesians 2:8–9

“For by grace you have been saved through faith... not of works.”

? You don't earn your way in.

God isn't standing there saying:

“Do better and I'll accept you.”

He's saying:

“Let Me in, and I'll change you.”

The Truth (This is your core message refined)

So what does God expect from you?

? Not perfection

? Not performance

? Not pretending

God expects honesty.

God expects surrender.

Because you can't change what you won't admit.

Power Line

“God doesn't expect a version of you that doesn't exist...
But He refuses to leave you as the version you are.”

Closing Scripture

? Philippians 1:6

“He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion...”

? God isn’t finished with you.

Closing Call

So stop trying to impress God...

Stop trying to act like you’ve got it all together...

? Just show up.

Because when you show up honestly—

That’s when God starts working.

Final Line

“He didn’t call the cleaned-up...

He called the called-out.

And if you showed up today—

You’re exactly who He came for.”