

The Rec-Connection

Physical exercise has some value, but spiritual exercise is much more important, for it promises a reward in both this life and the next. 1 Timothy 4:8

Expectations

December 2007

I don't know which restaurants you dine at, but the ones I frequent rarely have a wait. When waiting is required the host or hostess hands us an electronic buzzer and tells us the wait time. But we all know that if they say 30 minutes, it will be 15; if they say 10, just stay close because your table is almost ready. For corporate chains and hole-in-the-walls the process is the same. The over-exaggerated wait time is an attempt to manage our expectations. If we are told it will be 30 minutes, we are happy and satisfied when our table is ready in only 15. Imagine the opposite. We are told 20, wait 30, and black-list the place until they get their act together. The rationale is simple. Expectations determine the experience, and our expectations shape how we experience the world. For example, how often have we been disappointed by the summer blockbuster, and pleasantly surprised by the unassuming rental? Because of the pre-release hype we enter the theater with inflated expectations, yet often have very low expectations for the video pulled off the shelf.

God is a master of managing expectations. Character after character has come from humble beginnings to serve God in wonderful, unexpected, and exciting ways. Beyond the characters chosen are the circumstances God creates. When times are at the darkest or most dangerous, God will surprise everyone with an unexpected and unheard of action.

Such is the story of Christmas. Unexpected. Unassuming. Almost unbelievable. The entire heavenly host had waited an eternity for the coming of the Messiah. The Jewish community had gone 400 years without a prophet, and almost 1000 years waiting for the Savior. John the Baptist, the forerunner to Christ, was born to a disgraced rabbi and his elderly wife. Christ himself was born to a unwed, peasant girl. And the announcement of this birth was made to shepherds, the lowest on the social hierarchy. Unexpected to say the least.

Why would God do this? Why would God create such a climate?

I am not God and don't claim to fully understand this plan. But I know how this story makes me feel. From this set of circumstances I learn two very important things. 1. Christ is for everyone, and 2. The message goes beyond the words he spoke.

From his unassuming birth, the expectation is set that Christ came for everyone, for the socially elite and the people at the lowest level of the social ladder. Shepherds sat with kings and marveled at God's entrance into the world. What would our perception have been if Christ was the warrior king that the Jews expected? How would it have changed his message? What is Christ telling us by the way he entered life? How is Jewish interpretation of Jesus different because he did not meet their expectations?

This Christmas I want you to ask yourself one question: What is Christ trying to tell me? To find the answer, you may need to do more than just read the words he spoke. You may need to examine his actions, think about the culture, and examine how he lived his life. I firmly believe that every facet of Christ is important and capable of teaching us something. As we celebrate his birth, reflect on his message. I pray you find truth and come to know our savior more fully.

Merry Christmas

Chris Jones

Director of Sports and Recreation
Playing with a Purpose

News & Events

Fitness Classes

Registering Online

Registration is now available online for all fitness classes. A user name is not necessary for first time registrations.

Register for your class and a user name and password will be emailed to you. Use the provided user-name and password the next time you log in.

Volleyball Conditioning Clinics

Hosted by Prestige Volleyball

Wednesday evenings 7:30 - 8:30 PM

Beginning January 9th. To register, email

Clinic Director Kristin Smith at Kristin@prestigevolleyball.com

Childrens Dance

January 19 - March 1

3 - 4 Years: 10:30 - 11:30 AM

5 - 7 Years: 11:45 - 12:45 PM

Minimum class size of 6, max of 10

Please fill out the registration form and bring it by the CLC

Open Gym is limited to:

Open Competitive Volleyball

- Sunday afternoons from 4 - 6 PM

Open Basketball

- Thursday evenings 7 - 9 PM

Open Recreational volleyball

- Wednesdays 7 - 9 PM



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