

Living an Excellent Life
Anticipation versus Reality
John 4:16-19, 26, 42

Think back and ask yourself how many times in your life have you had great anticipation for an event; Christmas, a birthday, or a vacation, that when it finally came into reality, was something totally different. Last week I performed a wedding for a young couple who were both full of anticipation. Now, I have officiated hundreds of weddings and one of the recurring thoughts that I have is, "In six months their anticipation will be turned into reality."

Anything we do that is worth while, we will first experience anticipation and then reality. Even when we come to Christ there is anticipation and then there is reality. Whenever a person brings their life's problems to the Lord and sustains a focus on God, their anticipation will turn into reality.

I. The waste is _____.

A. God exchanges beauty for ashes and gives us a _____ of praise for the Spirit of heaviness.
Isaiah 61:3

1. Jesus doesn't _____ fingers. He speaks reality.

a. He is The Good Shepherd who walks _____ for a lost sheep.

b. He is The Great Physician who _____ healing love into our deepest wounds.

c. He is The Door that leads us out of misery into the _____ we always long for.

II. The refuse versus the _____.

A. The Lord does not throw a person away, but reforms what we have _____ up.

1. God is in the _____ business.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

III. The anticipation is _____.

A. We move from doing it our way, to _____ it His way.

1. The woman's story is directed to us:

a. What He did for her, He'll _____ for you.

b. What He said to her, He _____ to you.

C. Your _____ has come. Your _____ is at hand.

Conclusion

1. _____ it!

2. _____ it!

3. _____ in it!