



A couple of weeks ago my knee suddenly gave way as I was walking across the living room. Fortunately I was near the table so was able to prevent myself from falling. My first thought was, 'That was unexpected.' This was followed by a second thought, 'Oh, there's another Doodle idea.' You see how important you all are. I could have been rolling in agony on the floor and yet still thinking about producing one of these amazing, astounding, astonishing Doodles for you to read!

Unexpected



Surprised



Something for which we are not prepared. We have not thought about it so we are not ready to re-act in any particular way. We are totally unprepared. After an unexpected event we can think, 'I should have done this' or 'I should have done that' but at the time those thoughts did not occur to us.

This set me thinking about Jesus. His coming had been prophesied for years, but, when he came to the earth the nature of His coming obscured the fact that He was the Messiah. I assume that the people were expecting someone to come



with pomp and ceremony and a mighty army to defeat the Romans. It was quite unexpected for a baby to arrive who would want His nappy changing and who would cry when He wanted feeding! There was a huge difference between what was expected and what actually happened.



The life of Jesus was full of the unexpected. As a young person He was in the temple amazing the leaders there with His questions and His understanding of what he was being taught. As He had now reached the age of twelve He would have been considered an adult so it is most likely that this was His first visit in that capacity, so He may have been expected to sit there and say nothing. (My own thoughts!) It would have been quite unexpected for Him to show such understanding.

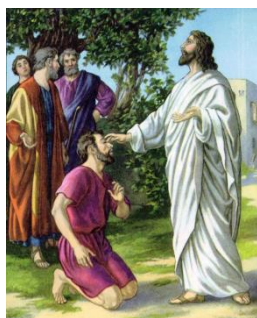


We then hear nothing at all of the life of Jesus for about another fifteen or sixteen years until He came to be baptised by John the Baptist. God obviously revealed to John the nature of the person whom he was baptising. It must have been quite an experience for John to see the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, come and rest on Jesus. How unexpected! John must have been quite overawed.

When Jesus began His ministry, the things that he did and said must have surprised many people. He was not at all conventional. It would have been unexpected for Him to talk to the woman at the well, not only because she was a woman but also because she was a Samaritan. After talking to her He revealed to her that He was the expected Messiah. The woman went back to the city and told others what had happened and the result was that many of them became believers – All because Jesus had done something that was unexpected.



Jesus often riled the Pharisees and other leaders. We would probably call Him a 'stirrer' for the way in which He seemed to deliberately say and do things that were against their normal rules and regulations. They had very strict rules about what was not supposed to be done on the Sabbath, but Jesus broke a number of those in order to illustrate either who He was or the insignificance of those rules. He showed that healing someone, satisfying hunger and helping others were all more important than their Sabbath rules. No wonder they did not recognise Him as the expected Messiah!



What about the miracles that Jesus performed? The unexpected became the expected. We read that not just hundreds but thousands of folk flocked to hear what He had to say and to take those who were sick to Him to be healed. Blind people were given their sight, those who were lame and unable to walk had their mobility restored and those whose spirits were controlled by the devil were made well and able to live a normal life. Jesus constantly spoke about God's Kingdom and encouraged the people to have a right relationship with God and with others.

There are a number of places where we read in the Bible, 'God blinded their eyes to the truth' or similar such thoughts. It sometimes does not make sense to us that God prevented people from seeing the truth, but it was when they were not prepared or not yet ready, that God continued to hide the truth from them. I can't help but wonder how all of those who saw some of those wonderful miracles with their own eyes, could not see that Jesus was the expected Messiah. When I think about it though, there are millions of people today who do not believe that Jesus was the Messiah who was promised, that He came to the earth for a period of time, that He is alive today and that one day He will return to the earth.

Jesus is no longer living on the earth as He was 2,000 years ago, but miracles continue to take place in His Name. Maybe our expectancy is too low to see hundreds healed at one meeting or event, but nevertheless, healings are a thing of the present as well as of the past. Sometimes we need to make the unexpected become the expected in order for God to do what He is perfectly capable of doing. Whatever OUR thoughts about miracles of healing, financial outcomes or relationship problems, God is unlimited in His capabilities and we are unable to put Him in a box and say that He can only do this or that. He will NEVER be contained in a box and often works in the most unexpected ways. We are not always able to figure out the answers to our problems but God has the knack of being able to do so. Trust Him. Expect from Him. We have limitations but God does not.

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED!