

Think about someone (real or imagined)
who will bring important changes for good to...

- your dorm, apartment, or neighborhood
- your workplace or classroom
- the Lansing area
- your country (or countries)
- the world

What did you imagine?

What kind of person can change the world?

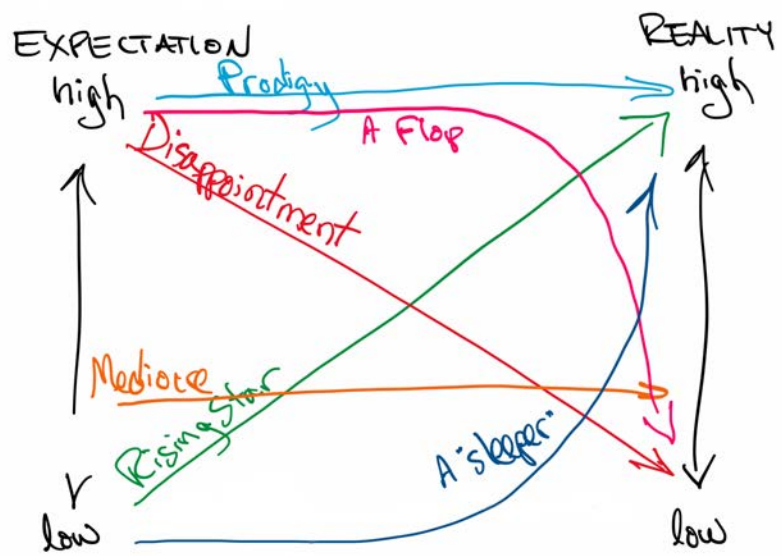
What kind of person does God use to change the world?

1

Humble Servants

Luke 1:26-56

Chinese page 1655
Spanish page 1295
English-Green page 698
English-Brown* page 1025
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2

The Setting for this Story

- Luke tells the story of the Good News of Jesus' fulfillment of God's mission to bring salvation
 - His birth, ministry (word & deed), death, & resurrection
- The beginning of the story of Jesus' birth
 - Zechariah and Elizabeth: God-pleasing yet no kids
 - Angel promises that they'll have a son who will be great
 - Zechariah wants proof so he can be sure it will happen
 - The proof: can't talk with people until the boy is born
 - Elizabeth gets pregnant and praises God!

3

Luke 1:26-56

26-37: The angel tells Mary she will give birth to a baby boy

38: • Contrast with Zechariah

39-45: • Single young woman vs. married elder man

46-55: • Peasant in Galilee vs. Priest in the temple in Jerusalem

56: • Same angel with a more dramatic message

- Pregnancy of a virgin (vs. for elderly married couple)

- Child will be "Son of the Most High" and king forever on David's throne (vs. "spirit and power of Elijah")

- Mary asks: "How will it happen?"

- Answer: the Holy Spirit

- God's word never fails

Chinese page 1655

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Luke 1:26-56

26-37: The angel tells Mary she will give birth to a baby boy

38: Mary humbly trusts and obeys

39-45: • The servant does what the Master says

46-55: • Contrast with Zechariah

- 56: • He “did not believe” Gabriel’s words
 • Mary understands, believes, and willingly follows

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Luke 1:26-56

26-37: The angel tells Mary she will give birth to a baby boy

38: Mary humbly trusts and obeys

39-45: Elizabeth confirms God’s word & Mary’s humble trust

46-55: • Elizabeth’s unborn child is already preparing peoples’

56: hearts for Jesus!

- The Holy Spirit is at work
- Elizabeth knows that Mary’s baby is “my Lord”
- Blesses Mary “who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her”

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Luke 1:26-56

26-37: The angel tells Mary she will give birth to a baby boy

38: Mary humbly trusts and obeys

39-45: Elizabeth confirms God's word & Mary's humble trust

46-55: Mary rejoices and praises God for helping the humble

56: • Glorifies "God my Savior"

- Rejoices in help for the humble, hungry, servants
 - Personally and for Jewish people (which was to be a blessing for all peoples)
- The proud oppressors will be brought down

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38: Mary humbly trusts and obeys

39-45: Elizabeth confirms God's word & Mary's humble trust

46-55: Mary rejoices and praises God for helping the humble

56: Mary & Elizabeth prepare for births

- Stayed until Elizabeth was going to give birth

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The Big Idea

God's greatest work
 is through humble trust and complete submission
 to His Word and will
 by His Son
 and by His children by faith

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Humble trust and complete submission by His Son:

Who, being in very nature God,
 did not consider equality with God something
 to be used to his own advantage;
 rather, he made himself nothing
 by taking the very nature of a servant,
 being made in human likeness.
 And being found in appearance as a man,
 he humbled himself
 by becoming obedient to death—
 even death on a cross!

Philippians 2:6-8

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Humble trust and complete submission by His children:

All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because,

“God opposes the proud
but shows favor to the humble.”

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand,
that he may lift you up in due time.

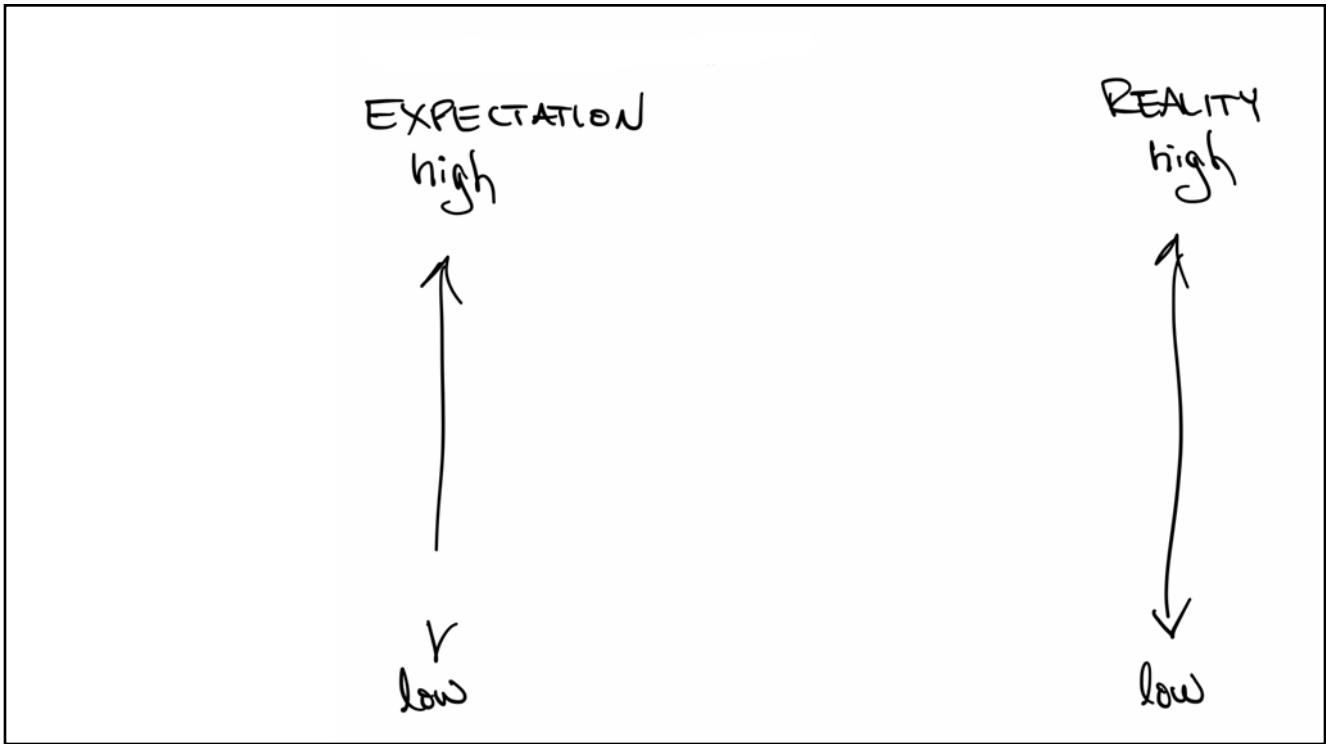
1 Peter 5:5b-6

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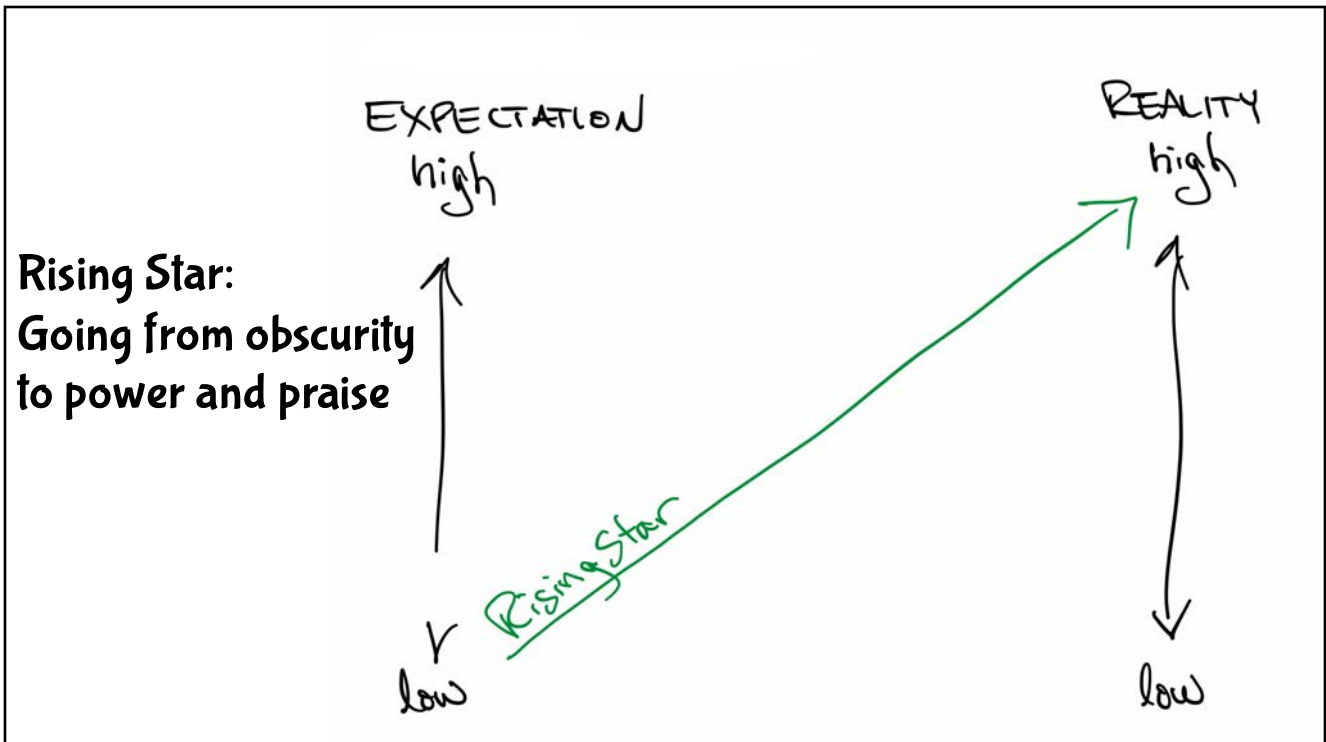
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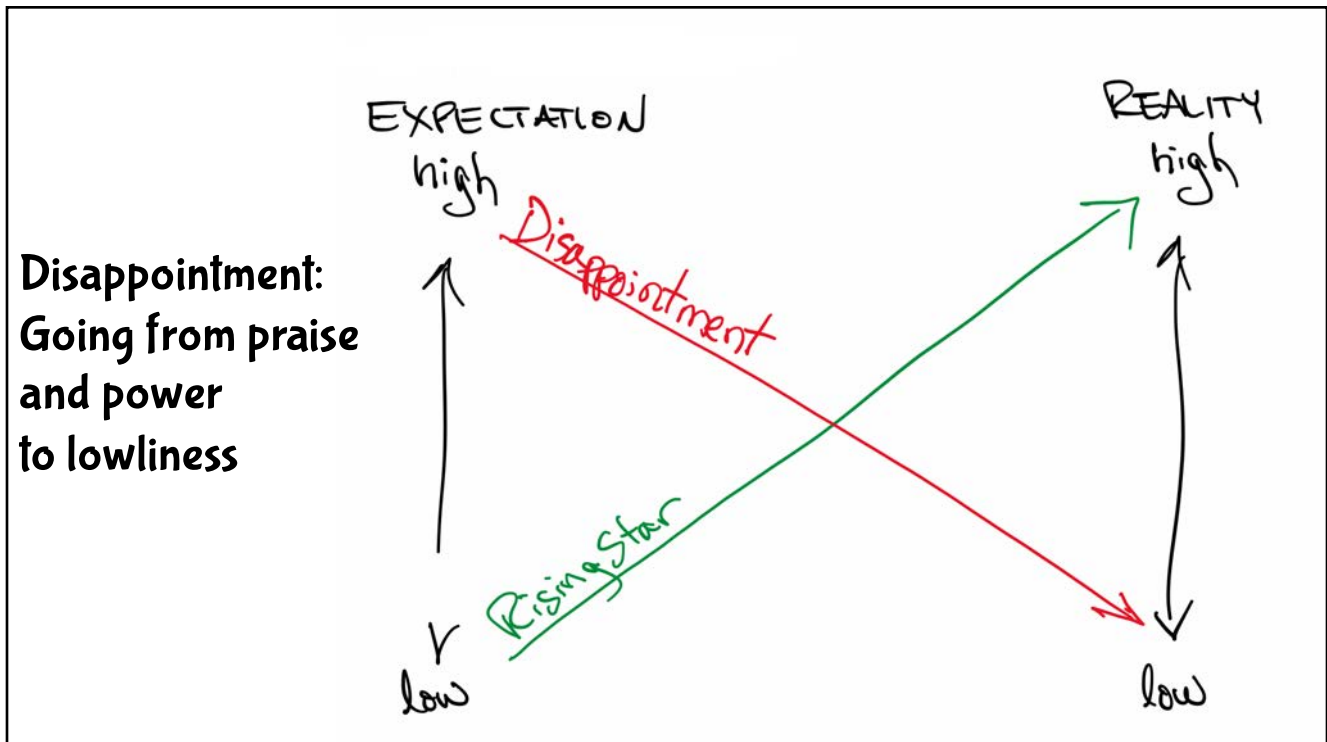
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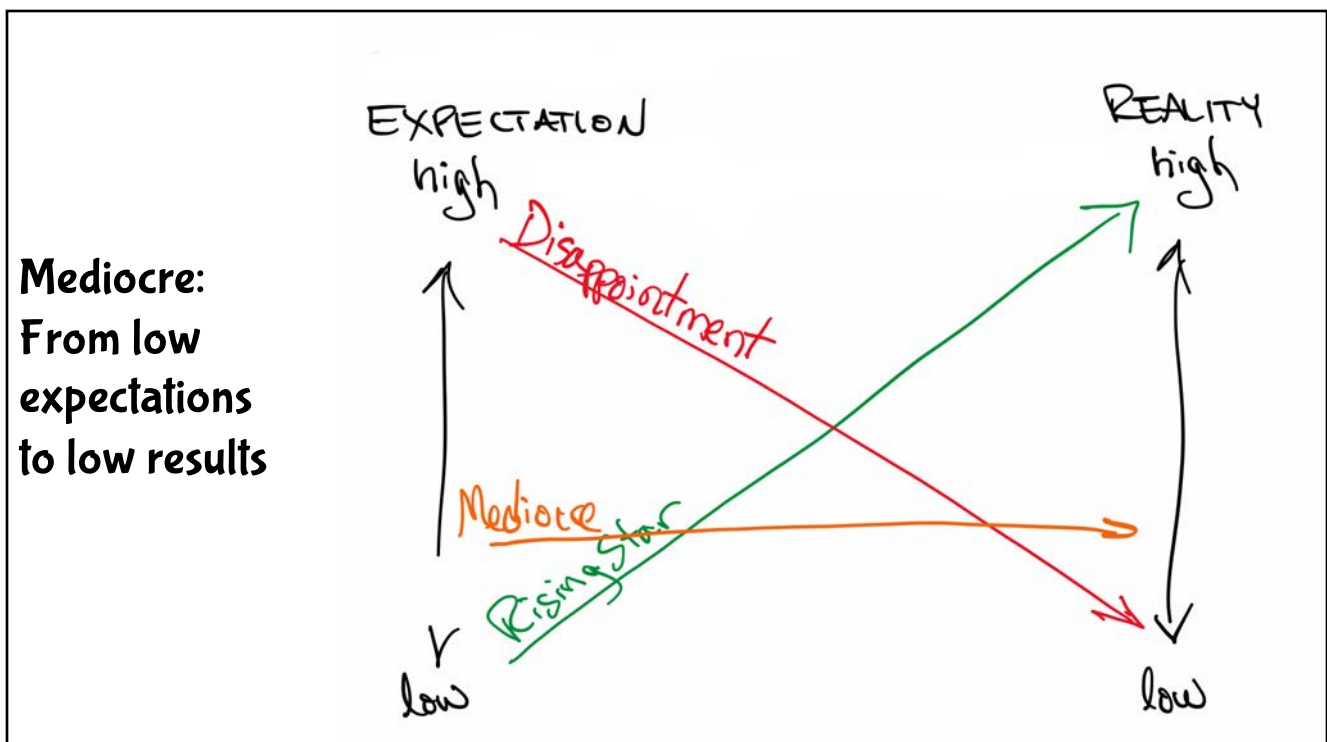
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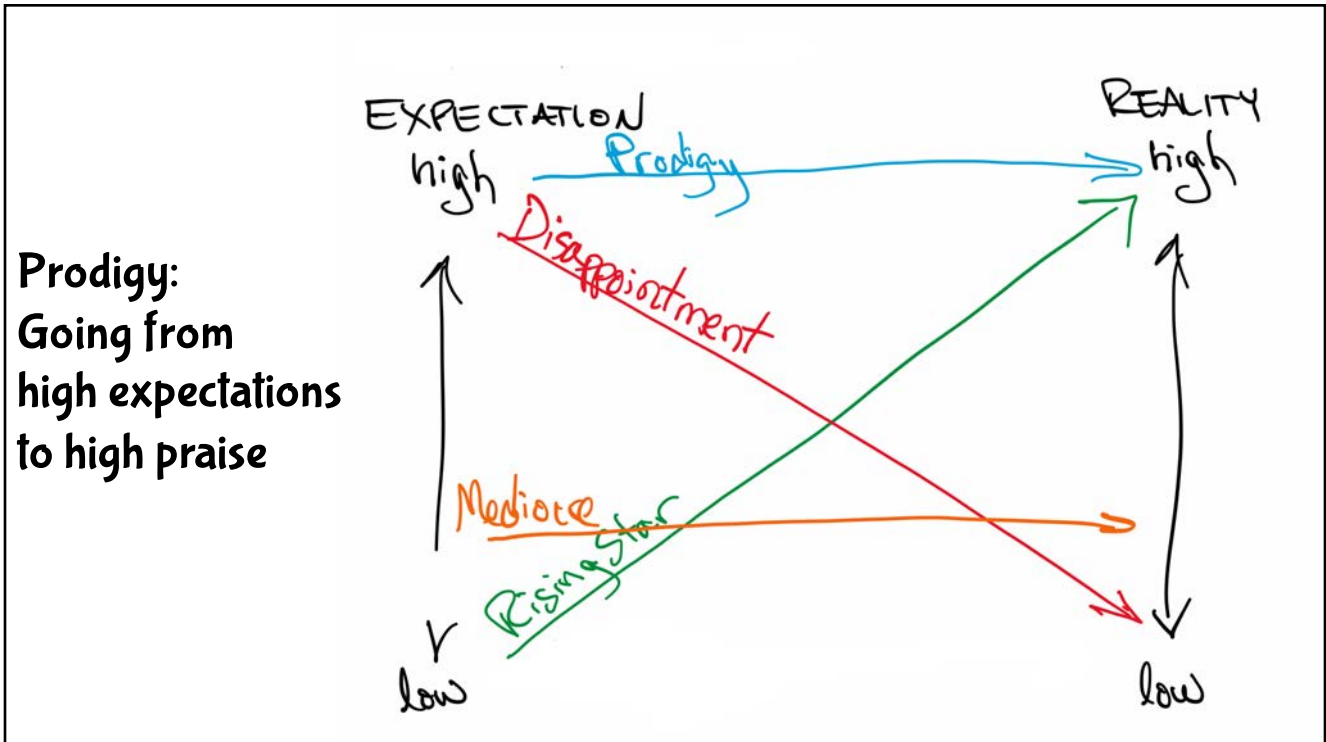
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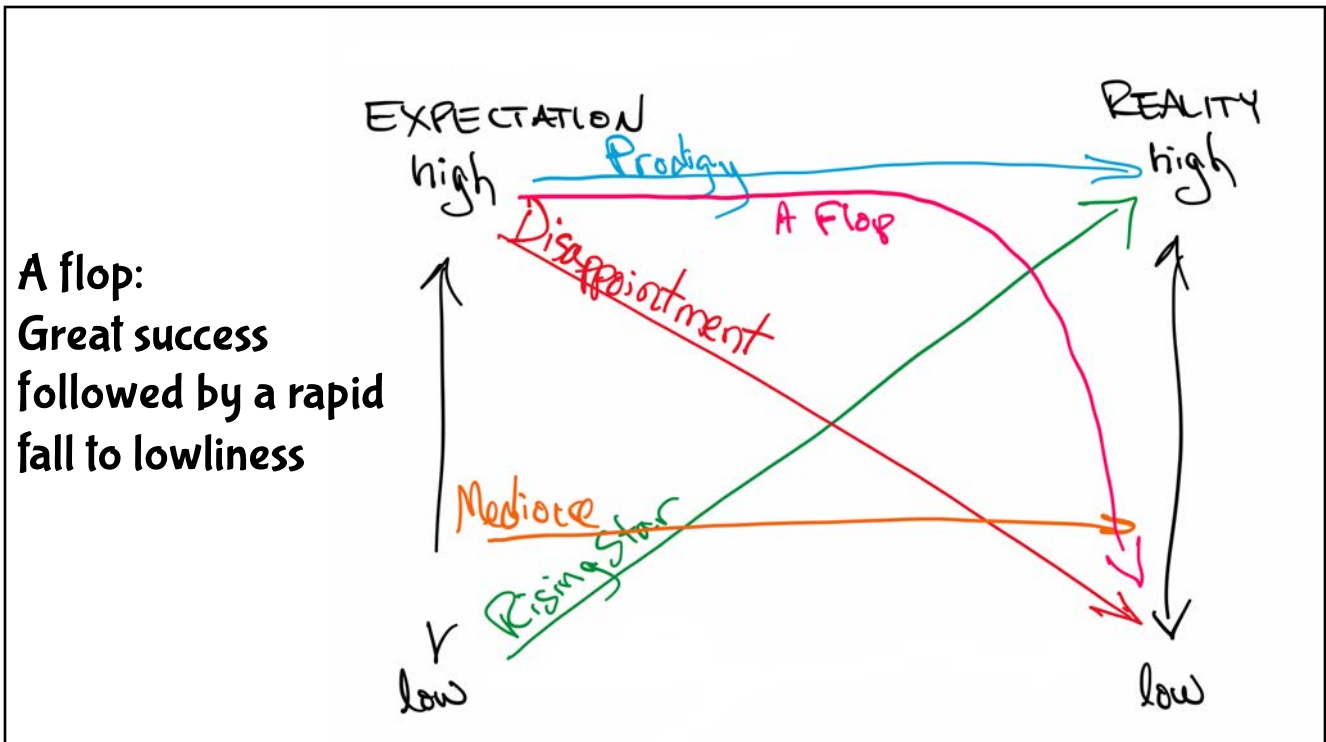
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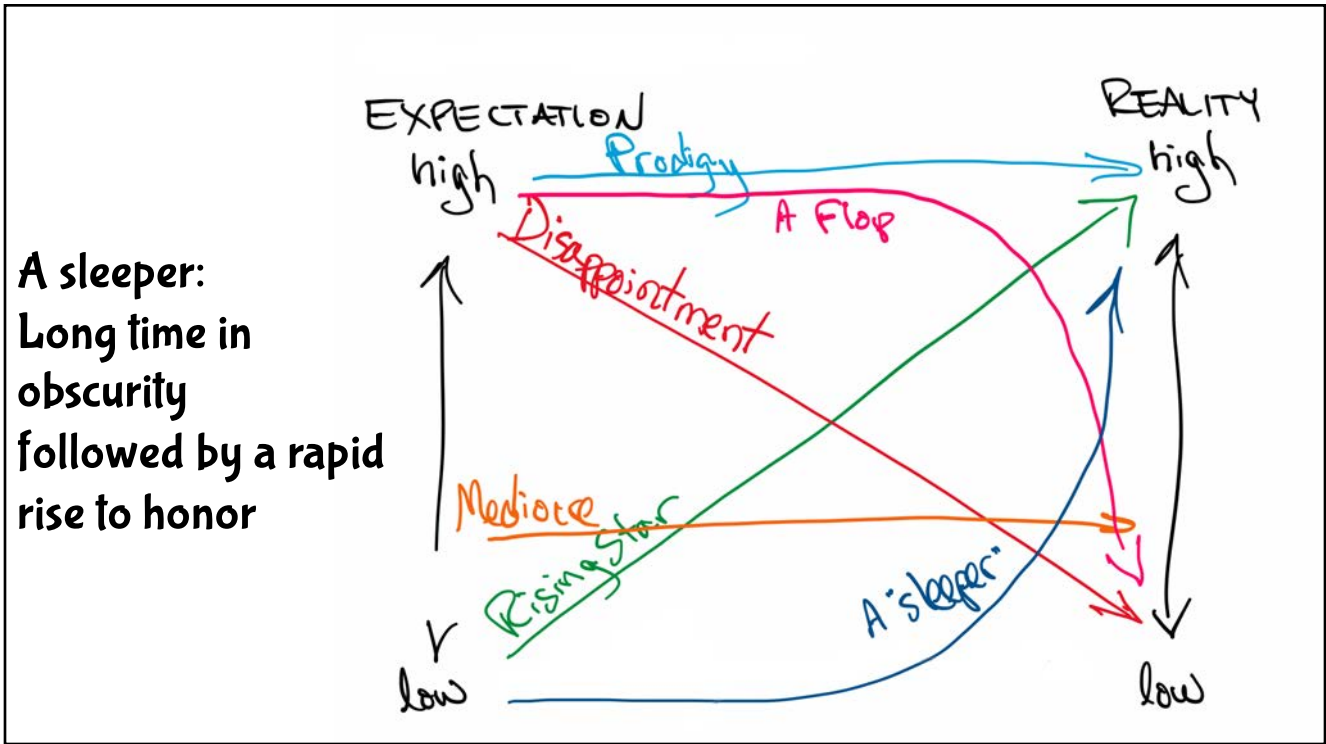
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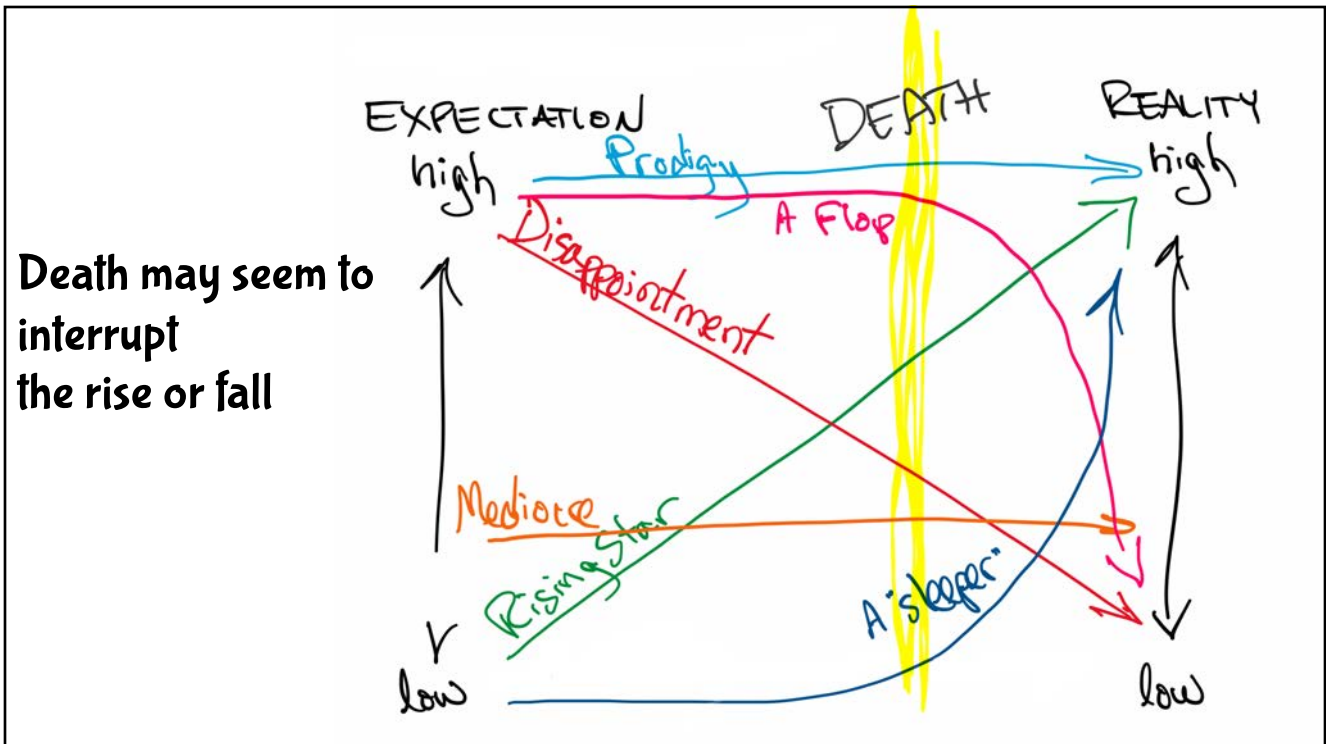
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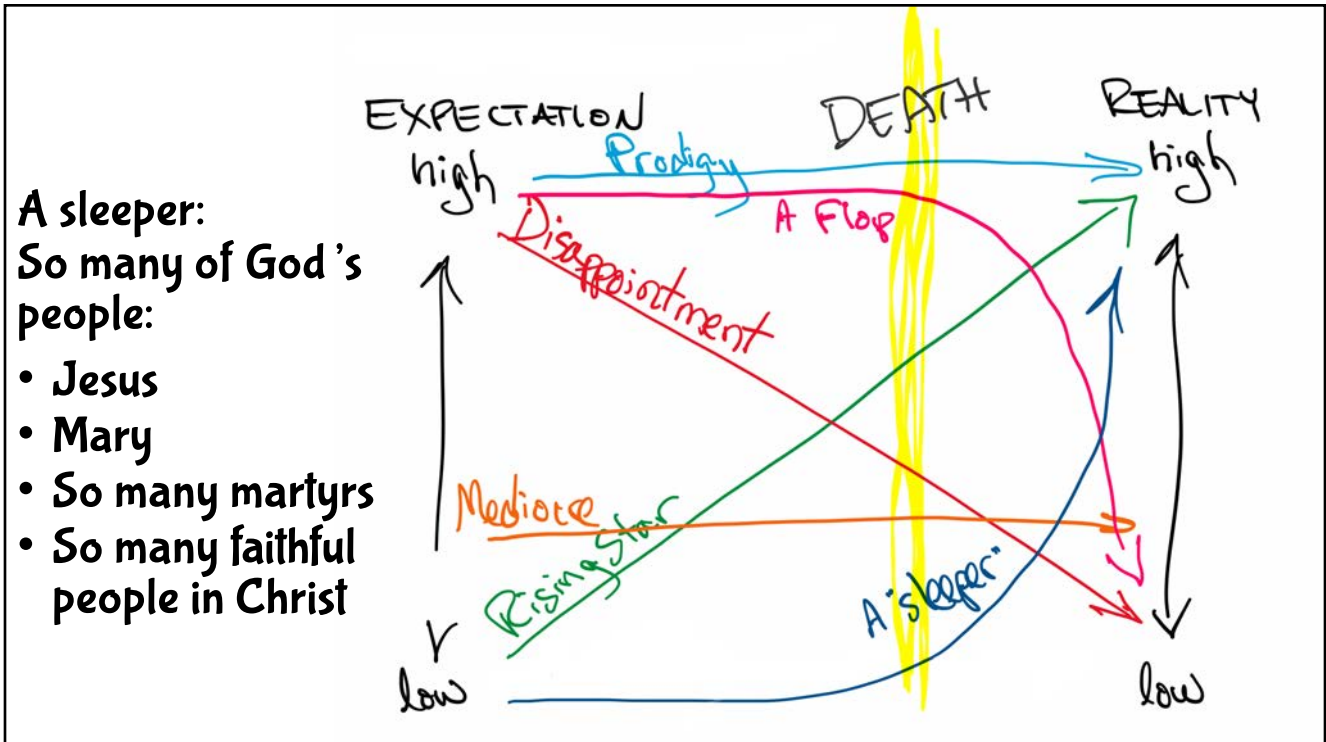
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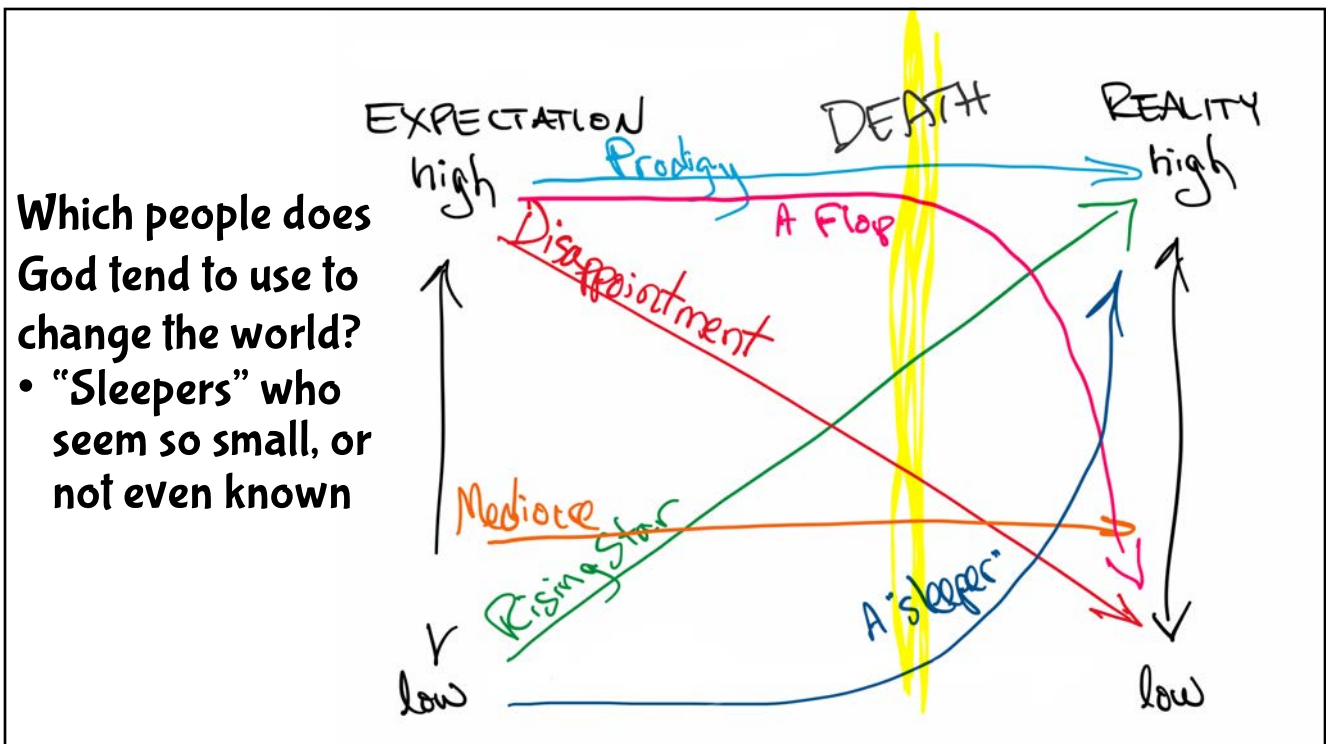
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The Big Idea

God's greatest work
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to His Word and will
by His Son
and by His children by faith

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Applications

- Trust in God's humble work
 - Jesus & His ways can seem unimpressive and irrelevant
 - “He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
He was despised and rejected by mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.”

Isaiah 53:2b-3a

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Applications

- Trust in God's humble work
 - Jesus & His ways can seem unimpressive and irrelevant
 - Yet His glory will be over every living being
- Jesus is “the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.”

Acts 4:11

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Applications

- Trust in God's humble work
 - Jesus & His ways can seem unimpressive and irrelevant
 - Yet His glory will be over every living being
- “Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Philippians 2:9-11

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Applications

- Trust in God's humble work
- Humbly submit to His Word and His ways

“I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled.”

Luke 1:38

- What can God ask of us? What is He asking of us?
- We are tempted as Satan tempted Jesus:
 - riches, honor & praise, pleasure & needs, power
- Jesus commanded people to turn from these to follow Him
 - It can be hard to hear His call to leave these things
 - When you have these things, behave as if they were not your own

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God's greatest work
is through humble trust and complete submission
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by His Son
and by His children by faith

What kind of person can change the world?

- **Anyone who humbly trusts and obeys the Word and will of God our Savior**
- **Even in obscurity and weakness and trouble**
- **In what ways is God calling you to humbly trust and obey?**

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