

JESUS THE CELEBRITY

Isaiah 53:1-2 ... "...And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he [Jesus] shall grow up before him [Father God] as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He [Jesus] has no form or comeliness; and when we see him [Jesus] there is no beauty that we should desire him."

Do you have a celebrity idol? Many people do. Most young people idolize actors, singers, or athletes. When people – even adults – attend events in which celebrities appear, they often make fools of themselves by screaming, pushing to get close, and even fainting. Politicians and elected officials can become the object of fans and find themselves crushed by crowds of people trying to get close and shake hands or take selfies. In some instances, the celebrity status of a person can occur because of power and influence. This is usually the motivation of people attracted to politicians and elected officials. They want to win favor.

Our devotional title today is sarcastic, meaning it does not really mean what it says. Jesus was not a celebrity. Our passage from Isaiah, who prophesied the coming of Jesus to earth, says that Jesus would not be attractive. Whereas a famous singer may be known for his or her great songs and voice, Jesus did not come to entertain. In fact, he came to reveal sin and warn people to change their ways. Jesus was an unattractive homeless man with a hard message, speaking and ministering to people who wanted him dead. He lived in poverty, so he had nothing to offer anyone except the truth. No one idolized Jesus or treated him like a celebrity. No one wanted drawings of Jesus like people today crave selfies. If the Sermon on the Mount had been recorded, I doubt that many would have purchased the recordings and played them endlessly like songs today.

If you are looking for a handsome Savior, you will be disappointed. If you are waiting to obey God until a handsome pastor invites you to be saved, you may die first. If you pick the church you attend based upon how cute the worship leader is, you are a celebrity-seeking believer. Your focus is on people, not Christ. I urge you to think about your motivations and align your desires with the teachings of Christ, not his appearance or popularity. Is it good enough for you that Jesus is God and represents truth? Is that enough to sustain your relationship with him? Or, would you prefer to find a pretty god? Consider your motivations.

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