



“For He shall grow up before Him like a tender plant, and like a root out of dry ground; He has no form nor comeliness, and when we shall Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief, and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.” Isaiah 53:2 – 3

Jesus came forth in the midst of a spiritually dry and dead time, yet this time, His time, was the “fullness of time.” (Galatians 4:4). Human judgments, natural discernings and individual tastes regrettably often overlook the common and then miss altogether the eternal. Sadly, clamoring for that which is glitzy, flashy, faddish and fleeting, we too often miss the valuable hidden amidst the mundane! Emmanuel – God with us! Yet He came as a Babe, hidden in a lowly manger, entrusted to a simple man and his young wife. Who would notice? Actually, only a few chosen or spiritually attuned individuals – a small number of shepherds who came by angelic announcement; a few magi who came by having seen and understood an astronomical wonder; and two aged people who hung out in the Temple – Simeon the prophet and Anna the prophetess!

Who as a child has not seen that one difficult classmate rejected by the popular cliques – maybe even feeling the pangs of shame yourself when asked by the popular students why you spoke with that “odd ball” and you answered in a way to protect our own standing rather than to guard the dignity of that one being ostracized!

Humanity collectively has hidden our faces from Jesus as He hung alone upon the cross! We have collectively rejected and despised Him. We have guarded our own standings and place with humanity’s sins and rebellion rather than siding with this common and yet, different Man. We all are guilty. We all must bear the responsibility, but... But, if we will turn to Him in repentance and trusting faith, He will in no way reject us as we did Him!

Selah.

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