

Glory of Jesus Veiled

When we see the movies about Jesus, we see that they pick the most handsome and popular actor and then for the disciples they get the next set of popular actors and then for the crowd they pick random extras. When we read Isaiah 53:2, 3 “He has no stately form or majesty, that we should look upon Him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him ... like one whom men hide their face he was despised and did not esteem Him.”

If we lived 2000 years ago and were able to see the physical Jesus, I believe as it says in the scriptures He would have not been the most physically attractive or majestic in appearance. From a physical appearance alone, I don't believe I would have been able to recognize Him. His glory was hidden, when you spent time with Him and were around Him, this glory would be experienced as He spoke and You saw His attitudes to money, the opinions of men, sinners and I'm sure my heart would burn within me as I heard Him speak (Luke 24:32)

Like we see in the portrayed in the movies of Jesus, I believe most people were looking for that type of natural attractiveness and when they saw Jesus and how ordinary He was that they couldn't in their mind accept that He was the Messiah, the son of the living God.

In Cor. 2:8, it says that if he could be recognized by those in the world in His day then they would have not crucified Him.

Why is this important? We can all say that if we were living in Jesus' day we would recognized the real Jesus, we would have not been fooled by the counterfeits. For me the test, is to see am I able to recognize godly men and a godly church today. If I'm impressed by external things like eloquence, or his personality or physical attractiveness of a speaker and not focused on his life then I would have missed out on the real Jesus. In the church if I'm impressed by the music, teaching, activities and not sought out if the life of Christ has been manifested in the midst then I would have missed Him.

We read in Luke 7:2-10, it speaks of the centurion sending Jewish elders to see Jesus, so it appears from this account the centurion many have not physically seen Jesus, and you hear these words of faith that Jesus commended.

Then we read in Luke 18:42, about this man who was blind, Bartimaeus, that he receive healing from blindness. And Jesus said his faith healed him. He again hadn't seen Jesus' physical appearance and had faith.

We read those who had seen him the most (Matt. 13:52), in Nazareth, those were the ones who took offense to him and he could not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith

In John 9:39, Jesus said “For Judgement, I came in to the world so that those who do not see may see and that those who see may become blind”. We see that truly those who saw His physical appearance were the ones who were blind to His identity and those were blind to His physical appearance saw Him.

Just like it was with Jesus, it is the same with the apostles.

When we read the scriptures and some external accounts, we see what Paul's physical appearance

2 Cor. 10:10: His personal presence is unimpressive and his speech contemptible

1 Cor 2:3 – I was with you in weakness and fear and much trembling.

We see that it is God's way to hide these things from the wise and intelligent (Matt. 11:25).

We see that there were controversies (not educated in Jewish schools, He should be from Bethlehem and not Galilee, opening the eyes of the blind) of whether Jesus was genuine or not.

(See John 10:19-21, John 7:40-52 and John 7:12, 15)

People could come to their own conclusions, those that just saw the external appearances were convinced he was not the son of God. And Jesus never sought to correct their misunderstandings.

We see with both Jesus and Paul, the people that heard them didn't recognize that the people they were despising (Jesus, Paul) were the very ones who were there to rescue them from the wrath to come.

Glory of Jesus Revealed

We see that we all have a veil over our face, mind and heart (2 Cor. 3:13, 14, 15). When we turn to God's Holy Spirit this veil is taken away so that we can see the glory of Jesus in His word. And then God is calling us to be transformed from glory to glory (2 Cor. 3:18).

It says that we have this treasure (the glory of Jesus v6) in an earthen vessel (2 Cor. 4:7).

We read in 2 Cor. 4:16 – about an outer man that is decaying and an inner man being renewed day by day. I used to think that used to this meant about us getting older and weaker (balding, wrinkles, dimming eyesight etc.) in our physical bodies. But that happens to everyone, how can my inner man be renewed by just the fact I'm getting older. No this decay is spoken of in v8 where it speaks about the afflictions, being perplexed, persecuted, and struck down. These are the things that come against our outer man. And it is only when we let this outer man decay can we see the glory of Christ.

Examples of what will break the outer man so that the glory of Jesus will be revealed in our lives:

- **Afflictions:** Jealousy, Anger, Lust, Food, Receiving Correction, Asking for Forgiveness, Inconveniences, Misunderstanding, Submission to authority
- **Perplexed:** Fear and Anxiety
- **Persecuted:** Accusations, Evil Speaking
- **Struck down:** Discouragement, Depression

Are we ready to go this way?

Acts 14:22 – Through many *trials* and *tribulations* we shall enter the kingdom of God

2 Tim 3:12 – All who desire to live godly will suffer *persecution*

Heb. 11:25 – Choosing *ill-treatment* with people of God rather than the pleasures of sin

Questions:

- 1) What do you think will prevent us from walking this way tomorrow?
- 2) Are we automatically transformed from glory to glory?
- 3) What will be the difference in your attitude when you face trials?
- 4) 2 Cor. 4:1 – what ministry is Paul talking about?