

Jesus: Divine, Yet Despised

Isaiah 53:1-3

We Were Blind to His Beauty

He was _____ in his birth.

He had a typical " _____ ". (Matthew 1:1-17)

He was _____ – like us. (Hebrews 2:17)

He was _____ in his appearance.

He was _____ our expectations. (cf. Isa. 9:6-7)

There he was – right in front of us – and we did not _____.

We Abhorred Him for His Agony

We 'measured' Him and considered him _____.

Our _____ were corrupted and incapable of _____. (Rom. 1:18-23, 3:11a; 1 Cor. 2:14)

We looked at him and saw nothing of _____.

Our _____ were bankrupt and incapable of _____. (Rom. 3:11b-12; Eph. 2:1-2; 2 Cor 4:4)

We _____ Him and we _____ Him.

Our _____ were enslaved and incapable of _____. (Rom. 8:7-8; John 6:44, 65)

"Every aspect of human nature is inadequate; every avenue along which, by nature, we might arrive at the truth and respond to God is closed."

Alec Motyer, *The Prophecy of Isaiah*, pp. 429.

Who then *has* believed?

Every Gospel presentation holds the trustworthy promise that _____ who accept God's terms will be _____. (Acts 2:21; Rom. 10:13)

But in our spiritually dead condition, we are _____ of seeing the "glory of God in the face" of Jesus and _____ to turn to Jesus in saving faith. (2 Cor. 4:3-6)

So what hope do we have?

Why then have they believed?

In a word – _____ – God's grace expressed in His _____. (Matt. 22:1-14; Luke 14:16-24; Acts 2:14-39; Romans 8:28-30)

Consider the witness of 2 Thess. 2:13-14:

¹³ *But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.*

¹⁴ *To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

God _____.

God _____.

God _____.

_____.

Sometimes the Holy Spirit will awaken us and draw us _____ – as in the cases of Paul (Acts 9:1-9, 22:6-11, 26:9-20) and Lydia (Acts 16:14).

More often, He awakens and illuminates and draws us in a manner that is imperceptibly _____, _____, and _____ (Rom. 1:6-7, 8:30; 1 Cor. 1:9, 26; 2 Pet. 1:10).

And when – by His grace, He does call – we must _____ in _____.

"When God works in us, the will, being sweetly changed and sweetly breathed on by the Spirit of God, desires and acts not from compulsion, but responsively."

Martin Luther, *The Bondage of the Will*, pp. 73.

My Response:

Has God called you – and you responded in grateful, saving faith?

Then _____ Him.

Is God calling you – and you have not yet responded in faith?

Then _____ Him.

Are you burdened right now for one who is lost?

Give him/her the _____ and then _____ Him and _____.