

Fresh Oil



March 2019

Dear Fellow Servants,

As we journey through this season of Lent, a time of preparation and drawing near to the cross of Christ, I want to ask you something. What 'attracts' you to Jesus Christ? In the western world attraction is all about the red carpet and the idolized sports celebrity. Hollywood would have us believe that the attractive people of this world are those who are the sexy, the sophisticated, or the social media darlings. Although Jesus was the son of a carpenter and was likely 'ripped' in the muscle department, yet Scripture has a different depiction of our Saviour when He hung on the cross for our sins. Consider what it says in Isaiah 52:14:

"Many were amazed when they saw Him – beaten and bloodied, so disfigured one would scarcely know He was a person."

The argument could be made, of course, that He was grotesque and gruesome while being crucified, but He was a Hollywood hunk outside of that. Well, let's keep reading. Here is what it says in Isaiah 53:2:

"My servant grew up in the LORD's presence like a tender green shoot, sprouting from a root in dry and sterile ground. There was nothing beautiful or majestic about His appearance, nothing to attract us to Him."

There you have it in plain English. There will be no photo opportunities with GQ magazine. No, it is not Christ's physical appearance that attracts us to Him. I think the Father designed it that way so that the focal point would be centered on His character, rather than His outward appearance. With that being said, what is it, then, that attracts you to the Lord?

For me, there are a number of qualities in Jesus Christ that capture my heart. He will never leave me (Matthew 28:20); He does not keep a record of my sins (Hebrews 8:12); He knows everything about me, even the number of hairs on my head (Luke 12:7); and He has prepared a home in heaven for me (John 14:2). That's just 4 things but I have a whole Bible full of lots more. I have never seen Him in person, but I have met Him by faith. I don't have Him on my Facebook friends list but He's a "friend that sticks closer than a brother (Proverbs 18:24). There may not have been anything "beautiful or majestic about His appearance, nothing to attract us to Him", but angels adore Him (Hebrews 1:6).

I encourage you to pause during this busy season and reflect a little on the things that you find attractive about Jesus. Perhaps write them down and share them with family at the dinner table or keep handy to read frequently at other times. It will help you to maintain a proper focus.

Your fellow servant,
Pastor Brian

... I have been anointed with fresh oil

PSALM 92:10

