

“Our Skin”
Isaiah 53:1-12

The Christ came to identify with humanity and take our place as a substitute/representative for the race (See Rom 5:12-21). How do you understand Him? How do you imagine Him in your mind? Think of the noteworthy people in scripture: Abraham, Gideon, David, Rahab, Ruth, Mary, Paul. Think of how they are portrayed in literature and film. We tend to imagine a very human and heroic figure and imagine them as our world imagines its great people. And we are most certainly wrong. By elevating them, we tend to excuse ourselves. But consider our Lord.

1. He was an unlooked for and unlikely Savior

- a.** He grew up before Him like a root out of dry ground - improbable, unlikely. See Jn 1:40. We have all seen plants flourishing in a flowerbed. Have you also seen some that spilled over outside the bed struggling to come up outside the good, well watered soil? That's the idea expressed here. Nazareth, a suburb of Sephoris, a small backwater, a “no where” place. The Messiah was of the royal line, surely His place of birth would be noble? Or not.
- b.** He had no beauty or majesty to attract people (1 Sam 16:7-13). Put simply, He was a plain, unimpressive man in appearance. What do the people God works through look like?
 - Do we excuse ourselves because we compare ourselves with others? (Paul didn't impress many - 2 Cor 10:10).
 - What impresses God? (Lk 16:15, Jer 9:23-24).

2. He came to please the Father. Do we seek to please people or God? He was rejected by people but fulfilled God's purpose. (Mtt 21:42/Ps 118:22).

- a.** He came to fulfill God's will and plan (Rom 15:3, 2 Cor 8:9, Ps 69:9).
 - We are helpless and under wrath (Prov 14:12).
 - He bore our condemnation (Ps 40:6-8, Is 59:1-21).
- b.** Why are we here? Who and what is life all about?
 - Rom 12:1-2, 1 Cor 6:20, Eph 4:1 - to offer ourselves to God.
 - He came for others.
 - * He bore our infirmities.
 - * He endured our judgement.
 - * We have a God- ordained mission