

The Person & Work of God the Son Study 4

In our study this evening we will continue to look at the Person & Work of Jesus, God the Son. Specifically we want to understand *how* He chose to live His life on earth, and *what* we can learn from His example.

1) His appearance

Speaking of Jesus the prophet Isaiah tells us that...

"He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him, nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him." ~ Isaiah 53:2b NIV

Jesus was so common in His looks that He was able to lose Himself in crowds. Point in fact, Judas had to identify Him with a kiss! This gives us a clue to Jesus' approach to the people He ministered to. In your opinion how would a common, or even unattractive face assist Jesus in His ministry to others?

In our modern culture it seems like the really good-looking people get all the attention and breaks in life. Do you stress out over how you look? How can the knowledge that Jesus wasn't much to look at be an encouragement to you?

2) His childhood home

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, but He was raised in the small insignificant village of Nazareth. The moral and religious reputation of Nazareth was so bad that when Nathaniel heard where Jesus' was from he wondered aloud...

"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

What type of person would Jesus be able to identify with that someone born in Rome or Jerusalem might not be able to?

Do you find that some types of people have trouble relating to you? If so, how would Jesus' approach to life help you to reach them?

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3) His possessions

Much of Jesus' public ministry was lived on the road without the comforts of home. One time He described His life this way...

"Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." ~ Matthew 8:20

Most of us have probably never thought of Jesus as being homeless, but in fact He never owned more than what He carried on His back and did not have a home that He could call His own. In what ways did being poor help Jesus to minister to people?

How can having great possessions hinder someone from doing the ministry that Jesus has called him or her to?

4) His crew

When we consider the group of people closest to Jesus we don't find a single religious scholar among them. Nor were there any upstanding citizens. Rather, we find a group of simple men and women, including a rebel, a formerly demon possessed woman and even a hated tax-collector.

What do you think Jesus saw in those people that we might have missed?

How would the backstory of Jesus' followers affect His reputation with the religious leaders, and why do you think Jesus wasn't concerned about it?

How should Jesus' selection of His disciples influence the way that we do ministry and pick our friends?

Are you encouraged, or discouraged by Jesus' selection of His disciples—why?
