Daily Devotion #101

Come as You Are

Isaiah 53:2 – “*He has no stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.”.*

Our world puts an exorbitant emphasis on the external. For example, the cosmetic industry has over a billion dollars in sales each year. And the clothing industry is just as rich. From face lifts to bodybuilding and eating certain foods, the emphasis from the world is external beauty. All because the human body is what takes precedence of just about everything.

I remember when I was in elementary school, I had a new pair of the canvas high-tops made by Converse. Today people call them “Chuck Taylors” named after the basketball player/salesman and promoter. I remember thinking then that all the kids would recognize me as one of the cool kids. But it must not have made that big of an impression because I don’t remember anything from that day other than wearing those shoes.

Sadly, many people live their lives trying to stand out among their peers by the way they look or how they dress or by some external draw for others to notice. But it was not that way with our Lord. In fact, it’s just the opposite. In most churches and even Christian retail stores, Jesus is presented in perfect fashion physically. He has beautiful eyes and long flowing hair that makes him look just like he came from the salon after a couple hundred-dollar hairstyle. I remember in our church where I grew up, we had handheld paper fans to cool ourselves while the service was going on that had a picture of Jesus on one side. He looked amazing.

But the Jesus Isaiah paints for us is not that figure of a man who would appear on GQ or People magazine as the hottest looking man around. No, Isaiah describes Him as someone who had nothing attractive about him. There was nothing that would catch your eye about his physique or anything about His eternal appearance that would cause anyone to want to take a selfie with Him. He was not someone people would want on a poster for their room.

Why would the Lord present Himself in such a humble, modest, unappealing way? The answer is simple. He was more concerned about what people heard from Him than what they saw. He wanted everyone to hear His words of life. He wanted people to hear His loving heart express itself to all people. Not just certain ones who were the most notable, but to all mankind. He didn’t want any barriers between himself and those He came to rescue from eternal damnation.

Beloved, have you been caught up in the externals of life? I’m speaking about the externals of how you look. You and I are probably more guilty of focusing on our external appearance than we think. Certainly, presentation of how look can be important, but it should not be the most important. If God were trying to decide what person He would put on his wall as a picture of beauty, would it be the latest Hollywood actor or actress who sports the latest styles, or would it be the person of humble means who has a heart that is more beautiful than anything the world can produce?

Certainly it would be the latter. So in the midst of our chaotic, almost upside-down world, let us be examples of what real beauty is. Let us be models of an inner beauty that people are so attracted to that they simply can’t stay away from us. So they want to have the same inner beauty and peace. And let’s make sure our internal beauty is all about Jesus – His peace, His kindness, His compassion, His love, His concern, His attentiveness, His care, His gentleness, His self-control, His strength. Let’s live so the world is attracted to Jesus.