

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

- Yes! God is a Spirit and consequently no man has ever seen Him. I understand that!
- Yes! God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son to redeem the world. I understand that!
- Yes! Jesus is God manifest in the flesh. He is the Word Who communicates the nature of God to man. In Him dwells all the fulness of the Godhead in a body. I understand that!

What I don't understand, is why God deliberately chose to come to earth in a way that no one could desire Him. Please consider these inspired words of Isaiah, "**He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.**" (Isa. 53:2) God certainly knows how to make things beautiful, why didn't He make Jesus that way?

Jesus, as you know, was born in poverty. Is that attractive to you? He was raised in an obscure little town called Nazareth. This town was so unpopular that it gave birth to a proverb indicating that nothing good could come from there (Jn. 1:46). Do you like that? Jesus chose His apostles from those considered as unlearned and ignorant. Do you like that? Jesus chose to spend much of His time with social rejects and sinners. Would you like your son to hang out with Him?

Yes! Jesus attained a great following when He fed the multitudes with 5 loaves of barley bread and 2 small fish. The crowds were so excited that they followed Him all the way from Bethsaida to Capernaum. Finally, the crowds apparently found something in Jesus that they liked. Then, of all things, Jesus rebuked them by saying: "**I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you.**" (John 6:26-27) Then Jesus proceeded to preach a sermon that drove the multitudes away. John recorded their departure with these words: "**From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed Him**" (Jn. 6:66). Does this seem to you like a good way to build a big church?

Please don't think that I am being critical of God. I believe in God and trust Him explicitly. I even want to be like Job who said that he would trust the Lord even if the Lord chose to kill him (Job 13:15). I am intrigued, however, by the fact that God does not do things the way that men do. As the heavens are higher than the earth, His thought and ways transcend ours. Consequently, it seems that God has deliberately chosen to reveal Himself in a way that most people will not recognize His true identity. Remember, the way that leads to eternal life is narrow and only a few will find it (Matt. 7:13 - 14).

Further, it seems that the Lord Himself chooses to reveal Himself to some, and not to others. How else can you possibly understand these words of Jesus: "**All things have been committed to me by my Father. No-one knows the Son except the Father, and no-one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.**" (Matt 11:27).

While I do not understand all the ways of God, I am firmly convinced that the eyes of the Lord are searching the whole earth to find those whose hearts are fully committed to Him (2 Chron. 16:9). Further, I am convinced that when we choose to seek for God with all of our heart, He will choose to reveal Himself to us (Jer. 29:13).

Someone has quipped - "We are in sales, not management". Our Sovereign God does not need to seek our advice. He can, He does, and He will present Himself to the inhabitants of earth anyway He chooses. We are not to question God, we are to search for Him. Since God is a jealous God, we dare not trivialize His value. Like the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price, we would be wise to invest everything to know Christ and the power of His resurrection. Based on the teaching of Scripture, those who are lukewarm will not be welcomed as good and faithful servants (Rev. 3:16).