

# Appearance vs. Reality

Two studies ago, we looked at how differently things appear from Heaven's view compared to ours. Our expectations are based on purely human limitations, which God well knows . . . and uses to teach us His unlimited wisdom, power, majesty, love and kindness.

Perhaps we could learn how to trust Him rather than our expectations of what He will do, is doing, or what He values.

## Isaiah 53

<sup>1</sup> Who has believed our message  
and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

<sup>2</sup> He grew up before him like a tender shoot,  
and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

<sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by mankind,  
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

<sup>4</sup> Surely he took up our pain  
and bore our suffering,  
yet we considered him punished by God,  
stricken by him, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.

<sup>6</sup> We all, like sheep, have gone astray,  
each of us has turned to our own way;  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.

<sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and afflicted,  
yet he did not open his mouth;  
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,  
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.

<sup>8</sup> By oppression and judgment he was taken away.  
Yet who of his generation protested?

For he was cut off from the land of the living;  
for the transgression of my people he was punished.

<sup>9</sup> He was assigned a grave with the wicked,  
and with the rich in his death,

though he had done no violence,  
nor was any deceit in his mouth.

<sup>10</sup> Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,  
and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin,  
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,  
and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

<sup>11</sup> After he has suffered,  
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;  
by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many,  
and he will bear their iniquities.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,  
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,  
because he poured out his life unto death,  
and was numbered with the transgressors.  
For he bore the sin of many,  
and made intercession for the transgressors.

When Israel's Messiah "the Anointed One," showed up hundreds of years after Isaiah wrote those words, the King of kings and Lord of lords just didn't look like anyone expected. His first appearance as a man was not royal or powerful by anyone's standards. He was as astute as the most learned person; he knew the scriptures better than anyone – even at 12 years old – though His education must have been the most humble, as the son of a carpenter. He was also as common as any man you'd expect to see on the streets of Nazareth, Capernaum, or Jerusalem. Amazingly, no one seemed to recognize that the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy (and other prophets too) was Yeshua Bar-Joseph.

Jesus said things that were hard to swallow:

#### **John 14:6**

"I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one is coming to the Father except through Me.

#### **John 4**

5 He is coming, then, to a city of Samaria, termed Sychar, nigh the freehold which Jacob gives his son Joseph.

6 Now there was a spring of Jacob's there. Jesus, then, weary with the journey, was seated thus at the spring. It was about the sixth hour.

7 A certain woman of Samaria is coming to draw water. Jesus is saying to her, "Give Me a drink,"

8 for His disciples had come away into the city that they should be buying nourishment.

9 The Samaritan woman, then, is saying to Him, "How are you, being a Jew, requesting

a drink from me, being a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews are not beholden to Samaritans.)

10 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you were aware of the gratuity of God, and Who it is Who is saying to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would request Him, and He would give you living water."

11 The woman is saying to Him, "Lord, you have not even a bucket, and the well is deep. Whence, then, have you living water?"

12 Not greater are you than our father Jacob, who gives us the well, and he himself drank out of it, and his sons, and what was nourished by him?"

13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who is drinking of this water will be thirsting again,

14 yet whoever may be drinking of the water which I shall be giving him, shall under no circumstances be thirsting for the eon, but the water which I shall be giving him will become in him a spring of water, welling up into life eonian."

15 The woman is saying to Him, "Lord, give me this water, that I may not be thirsting, nor yet coming to this place to draw."

16 Jesus is saying to her, "Go, summon your husband and come to this place."

17 The woman answered and said to Him, "No husband have I."

18 Jesus is saying to her, "Ideally said you that 'A husband I have not,' for five husbands have you had, and now he whom you have is not your husband. This you have declared truly."

19 The woman is saying to Him, "Lord, I behold that thou art a prophet.

20 Our fathers worship in this mountain, and you say that in Jerusalem is the place where one must worship."

21 Jesus is saying to her, "Believe Me, woman, that, coming is an hour when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem shall you be worshiping the Father.

22 You are worshiping that of which you are not aware; we are worshiping that of which we are aware, for salvation is of the Jews.

23 But coming is the hour, and now is, when the true worshipers will be worshiping the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father also is seeking such to be worshiping Him.

24 God is spirit, and those who are worshiping Him must be worshiping in spirit and truth."

25 The woman is saying to Him, "We are aware that Messiah is coming, Who is termed 'Christ,' Whenever He should be coming, He will be informing us of all things."

26 Jesus is saying to her, "I am He, Who am speaking to you."

27 And, at this, His disciples came, and they marveled that He spoke with a woman. Howbeit, no one said to Him, "What art Thou seeking?" or "What art Thou speaking with her?"

28 The woman, then, leaves her water pot, and came away into the city, and is saying to the men,  
29 'Hither! Perceive a Man Who told me all whatever I do. Is not this the Christ?'"  
30 They, then, came out of the city and came to Him.

### **John 6 and 7:1**

1 After these things Jesus came away to the other side of the sea of Galilee of Tiberias.  
2 Now there followed Him a vast throng, for they beheld the signs which He did on the infirm.

3 Now Jesus came up into the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples.

4 Now near was the Passover, the festival of the Jews.

5 Jesus, then, lifting up His eyes and gazing -- for a vast throng is coming toward Him -- is saying to Philip, "Whence should we be buying bread that these may be eating?"

6 Now this He said to try him, for He was aware what He was about to be doing.

7 Then Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that each may get a bit.

8 One of His disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, is saying to Him,

9 "There is a lad here who has five cakes of barley bread and two food fishes. But what are these for so many?"

10 Yet Jesus said, "Make the people lean back." Now there was much grass in the place. The people, then, lean back, the men in number about five thousand.

11 Jesus, then, took the bread, and, **giving thanks, He distributes it** to those lying back. Likewise also of the food fish, as much as they wanted.

12 Now as they are filled, He is saying to His disciples, "Gather the superfluous fragments, lest some should perish."

13 They gathered them, then, and cram twelve panniers with fragments of the five cakes of barley bread which are superfluous for those who were fed.

14 The men, then, perceiving the sign which Jesus does, said that "This truly is the Prophet Who is coming into the world!"

15 Jesus, then, *knowing that they are about to come and snatch Him, that they should be making Him king*, retires again into the mountain **by Himself alone**.

16 Now as it became evening, His disciples descended to the sea.

17 And, stepping into the ship, they came to the other side of the sea to Capernaum. And darkness had already come, and Jesus had not as yet come to them.

18 Besides, the sea was roused by the blowing of a great wind.

19 Having, then, rowed about twenty-five or thirty stadia, they are beholding Jesus walking on the sea and coming to be near the ship, and they were afraid.

20 Yet He is saying to them, "It is I. Do not fear!"

**21 They wanted, then, to take Him into the ship. And immediately the ship came to**

**be at the land to which they went.**

22 On the morrow the throng, standing on the other side of the sea, perceived that no other boat was there except one, and that Jesus did not enter the ship together with His disciples, but His disciples came away alone.

23 But boats out of Tiberias came near the place where they ate the bread for which the Lord gave thanks.

24 When, then, the throng perceived that Jesus is not there, neither His disciples, they stepped into the boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

25 And, finding Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when camest Thou to be here?"

26 Jesus answered them and said, "Verily, verily, I am saying to you, You are seeking Me, not that you perceived signs, but that you ate of the bread and are satisfied.

27 Do not work for the food which is perishing, but for the food which is remaining for life eonian, which the Son of Mankind will be giving to you, for this One God, the Father, seals."

28 They said, then, to Him, "What may we be doing that we may be working the works of God?"

29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you may be believing in that One Whom He commissions."

30 They said, then, to Him, "What sign, then, are you doing, that we may be perceiving and should be believing you? What are you working?"

31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, according as it is written, Bread out of heaven He gives them to eat."

32 Jesus, then, said to them, "Verily, verily, I am saying to you, not Moses has given you the bread out of heaven,

33 but My Father is giving you Bread out of heaven, the true, for the Bread of God is He Who is descending out of heaven and giving life to the world."

34 They said, then, to Him, "Lord! always be giving us this Bread!"

35 Jesus, then, said to them, "I am the Bread of life. He who is coming to Me should under no circumstances be hungering, and he who is believing in Me will under no circumstances ever be thirsting.

36 But I said to you that you have also seen Me and you are not believing Me.

37 All that which the Father is giving to Me shall be arriving to Me, and he who is coming to Me I should under no circumstances be casting out,

38 for I have descended from heaven, not that I should be doing My will, but the will of Him Who sends Me.

39 Now this is the will of Him Who sends Me, that all which He has given to Me, of it I should be losing nothing, but I shall be raising it in the last day.

40 For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who is beholding the Son and believing in Him may have life eonian, and I shall be raising him in the last day."

41 The Jews, then, murmured concerning Him, that He said, "I am the Bread which descends out of heaven."

42 And they said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, with whose father and mother we are acquainted? How, then, is he saying that 'Out of heaven have I descended'?"

43 Jesus, then, answered and said to them, "Do not murmur with one another.

44 No one can come to Me if ever the Father Who sends Me should not be drawing him. And I shall be raising him in the last day.

45 It is written in the prophets: And they shall all be taught of God. Everyone, then, who hears from the Father and is learning the truth, is coming to Me.

46 Not that the Father has been seen by anyone, except by the One Who is from God. This One has seen the Father.

47 Verily, verily, I am saying to you that he who is believing in Me has life eonian.

48 I am the Bread of life.

49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.

50 This is the Bread which is descending out of heaven that anyone may be eating of it and may not be dying.

51 I am the living Bread which descends out of heaven. If anyone should be eating of this Bread, he shall be living for the eon. Now the Bread also, which I shall be giving for the sake of the life of the world, is My flesh."

52 The Jews, then, fought with one another, saying, "How then can this one give us his flesh to eat?"

53 Jesus, then, said to them, "Verily, verily, I am saying to you, If you should not be eating the flesh of the Son of Mankind and drinking His blood, you have no eonian life in yourselves.

54 He who is masticating My flesh and drinking My blood has life eonian, and I shall be raising him in the last day,

55 for My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink.

56 "He who is masticating My flesh and drinking My blood is remaining in Me, and I in him.

57 According as the living Father commissions Me, I, also, am living because of the Father. And he who is masticating Me, he also will be living because of Me.

58 This is the Bread which descends out of heaven. Not according as the fathers ate and died; he who is masticating this Bread shall be living for the eon."

59 These things He said, teaching in a synagogue in Capernaum.

60 Many of His disciples, then, hearing it, said, "Hard is this saying! Who can hear it?"

61 Now Jesus, being aware in Himself that His disciples are murmuring concerning this,

said to them, "This is snaring you?"

62 If, then, you should be beholding the Son of Mankind ascending where He was formerly -- ?

63 The Spirit is that which is vivifying. The flesh is not benefiting anything. The declarations which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

64 But there are some of you who are not believing." For Jesus had perceived from the beginning who those are who are not believing, and who it is that gives Him up.

65 And He said, "Therefore have I declared to you that no one can be coming to Me if it should not be given him of the Father."

66 At this, then, many of His disciples came away, dropping behind, and walked no longer with Him.

67 Jesus, then, said to the twelve, "Not you also are wanting to go away!"

68 Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we come away? Declarations of life eonian hast Thou!

69 And we believe and know that Thou art the Holy One of God."

70 Jesus answered and said to them, "Do not I choose you, the twelve, and one of you is an **adversary**?" (aside: "Diabolos" – "THROUGH-CASTER", often used as the equivalent of Hebrew "satan" = adversary.

71 Now He said it of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, for this man was about to give Him up, being one of the twelve.

## **Chapter 7**

1 And after these things Jesus walked in Galilee, for He would not walk in Judea, for the Jews sought Him to kill Him.

### **Matthew 25:**

31 "Now, whenever the Son of Mankind may be coming in His glory, and all the holy messengers with Him, then shall He be seated on the throne of His glory,

32 and in front of Him shall be gathered all the nations. And He shall be severing them from one another even as a shepherd is severing the sheep from the kids.

33 And He shall be standing the sheep, indeed, at His right, yet the kids at the left.

34 "Then shall the King be declaring to those at His right, 'Hither, blessed of My Father! Enjoy the allotment of the kingdom made ready for you from the disruption of the world.

35 For I hunger and you give Me to eat' I thirst and you give Me drink; a stranger was I and you took Me in;

36 naked and you clothed Me; infirm am I and you visit Me; in jail was I and you come to Me.'

37 "Then the just will be answering Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we perceive Thee hungering and nourish Thee, or thirsting and we give Thee drink?

38 Now when did we perceive Thee a stranger and took Thee in, or naked and we clothed Thee?

39 Now when did we perceive Thee infirm, or in jail, and we came to Thee?'  
40 "And, answering, the King shall be declaring to them, 'Verily, I am saying to you, In as much as you do it to one of these, the least of My brethren, you do it to Me.'  
41 "Then shall He be declaring to those also at His left, 'Go from Me, you cursed, into the fire eonian, made ready for the Adversary and his messengers.  
42 For I hunger and you do not give Me to eat; I thirst and you do not give Me drink;  
43 a stranger was I and you did not take Me in; naked and you did not clothe Me; infirm and in jail and you did not visit Me.'  
44 "Then shall they also be answering, saying, 'Lord, when did we perceive you hungering or thirsting, or a stranger, or naked, or infirm, or in jail, and we did not serve you?'  
45 "Then shall He be answering them, saying, 'Verily, I am saying to you, In as much as you do it not to one of these, the least, neither do you it to Me.'  
46 And these shall be coming away into chastening eonian, yet the just into life eonian."

### **Chapter 26**

1 And it occurred, when Jesus finishes all these sayings, He said to His disciples,  
2 "You are aware that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Mankind is being given up to be crucified."

Looking at Yeshua Ha Masiach – Jesus of Nazareth – almost no one “got him.”

### **John 5:43**

43 I have come in the name of My Father, and you are not getting Me. If another should be coming in his own name, him you will get.

I started this study two weeks ago, and it leads me to a declaration I feel compelled to make: Watch for Jesus to show up in your life anywhere and everywhere. A guy called me over a period of weeks, during a time when he was going through a health crisis. One day, he probably called three or four times—maybe more—and by the next to the last time, I was getting impatient and short over the phone. Right after I hung up, Barbara said, “That was Jesus on the phone.” Instantly, I was convicted and ashamed by His own words in Mark 9:

36 And, taking a little child, He stands it in their midst, and, clasping it in His arms, said to them,

37 "Whoever should be receiving one of such little children in My name, is receiving Me, and whosoever may be receiving Me is not receiving Me, but Him Who commissions Me."

38 John averred to Him, saying, "Teacher, we perceived someone casting out demons in Thy name, who is not following us, and we forbade him, for he followed not with us."

39 Yet Jesus said, "Be not forbidding him, for there is no one who will be doing a



powerful deed in My name, and will be able swiftly to speak evil of Me.

40 For who is not against us is for us.

41 For whosoever should be giving you a cup of water to drink in the Name, seeing that you are Christ's, verily I am saying to you that by no means should he be losing his wages.

Where did Jesus show up in your life, along your path? What did He look like and sound like? Was he or she just too much to deal with graciously at the time? Yes, ***“...there is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus...”*** Right. Meanwhile, where is Jesus showing up today?

Before I went out on a Friday or Sat. night in Jr. and Sr. High School, my dad said, *“Remember who you are and who you represent.”* I hear the Father saying that to everyone tonight. You may be Jesus to someone, and Jesus may come to you as someone you don't expect. Who is calling you? Who is asking you for help or counsel? Who really needs your attention. You'll need discernment to separate the real from the false, to avoid casting your pearls before swine or give holy things to dogs, and still not miss the Lord...and not miss the opportunities to be Him to someone else.

## **1 Corinthians 1:**

17 For Christ does not commission me to be baptizing, but to be bringing the evangel, not in wisdom of word, lest the cross of Christ may be made void.

18 For the word of the cross is stupidity, indeed, to those who are perishing, yet to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

19 For it is written, I shall be destroying the wisdom of the wise, and the understanding of the intelligent shall I be repudiating.

20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the discussor of this eon? Does not God make stupid the wisdom of this world?

21 For since, in fact, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom knew not God, God delights, through the stupidity of the heralding, to save those who are believing,

22 since, in fact, Jews signs are requesting, and Greeks wisdom are seeking,

23 yet we are heralding Christ crucified, to Jews, indeed, a snare, yet to the nations stupidity,

24 yet to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ, the power of God and the wisdom of God,

25 for the stupidity of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

26 For you are observing your calling, brethren, that there are not many wise according to the flesh; not many powerful, not many noble,

27 but the stupidity of the world God chooses, that He may be disgracing the wise, and  
the weakness of the world God chooses, that He may be disgracing the strong,  
28 and the ignoble and the contemptible things of the world God chooses, and that  
which is not, that He should be discarding that which is,  
29 so that no flesh at all should be boasting in God's sight.  
30 Yet you, of Him, are in Christ Jesus, Who became to us wisdom from God, besides  
righteousness and holiness and deliverance,  
31 that, according as it is written, He who is boasting, in the Lord let him be boasting.