

The Unrecognizable Messiah

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John 1:10, Amplified: “He came into the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not RECOGNIZE Him [did not KNOW Him]. “He came to that which belonged to Him [to His own - His domain, creation, things, world], and they who were His own did not RECEIVE Him and did not WELCOME Him. “But to as many as did RECEIVE and WELCOME Him, He gave the authority (power, privilege, right) to become the children of God, that is, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, rely on) His name - [Isa 56:5.]”

About two thousand years ago, Christ came in a form that many did not expect. They had perceived that He would come as a mighty, military power to overtake the Roman Empire. They thought He would be head and shoulders above the rest. On the contrary, Jesus was “a tender plant” , a “root out of a dry ground” (Isaiah 53:2). He had no form or comeliness. He did not come in royal, kingly pomp. People didn’t turn to see His great beauty. Instead, He was despised and rejected by men. Men hid their faces from Him. He was not appreciate or esteemed. His worth was UNRECOGNIZABLE (Isaiah 53:3).

John 1:26, Amplified: “...AMONG YOU there stands One Whom you do not RECOGNIZE and with Whom you are not ACQUAINTED and of Whom you KNOW nothing. [Mal. 3:1.]”

Jesus, who was lead by the Spirit at all times, took on several unorthodox appearances to the disciples. Many times, when He appeared to them in a form they were not accustomed to, they “were terrified” and “screamed out with freight” (Matt 14:26, AMP). This could certainly paint for us a different picture of Jesus than we have traditionally been exposed to. He comes when He wants and how He wants. Will we be scared or open.

In Matthew 14:22-33, Jesus walked toward His disciples on the water and the disciples thought that He was “a spirit” (a “phantasm” (Strong’s # 5326); “a ghost” (AMP and NLT); “a phantom” (Mon)). As a result of this terrifying sight, they (Mt 4:26) “screamed in terror” (NLT); “were troubled...cried out for fear” (KJV); “they were frightened” (NAS); they were “Greatly alarmed” (Weymouth); they “shrieked for fear” (Moffatt). How would you react if you were there?

In Mark 6:45-52 (which is a parallel passage to Matthew 14:22-33) they supposed it was “an apparition” (Alf) and, in response, “raised a [deep, throaty] shriek of terror” (AMP) - “they were full of dismay” (Knox). When Jesus finally calmed the storm, the disciples “were scared out of their wits” (Phi). Can you imagine such a sight?

In Luke 24:13-35 Jesus appeared to two of His followers in a form that kept them from recognizing Him. Eventually, their eyes were opened and they recognized Him. However, when this happened, He disappeared. Later on in Luke 24:36-37 as they were discussing their previous experience with Jesus, Jesus, Himself, suddenly appeared and stood before them. As a result:

“The whole group was terribly frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost” (NLT)

“They were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit” (KJV)

“They were startled” (AMP)

“Startled, and in the utmost alarm” (Weymouth)

“Panic stricken” (Goodspeed)

“They shrank back in terror” (Phi)

They thought that they had seen “an apparition” (Knox).

Today, Christ is unfolding in an UNRECOGNIZABLE fashion. He will not always fit within our mold. He will not conform to our modus operandi forever. We should not be surprised when He begins to show up and do things in our midst that we've never seen before. When He defies science and the laws of the universe, we should not shrink back or be awestruck. Jesus cannot be limited in any way, shape or dimension. Neither should we limit His servants.

We must learn to discern what is of Him and what is not. If we don't, we will end up rejecting those/that which He endorses. We must change the way we see things. If we keep our eyes on the flesh or those things that are on the surface, we will miss God. This is a true and trustworthy statement worthy of our contemplation: NEVER JUDGE A BOOK BY IT'S COVER

John, the Baptist, discerned Who the Christ was by watching the Spirit. When the Spirit descended and remained on Jesus, he knew that He was the Christ. The Dove dwelt on Him, never to depart. This was the proof, for John, that the MAN, Jesus, was/is the Christ. We should learn a lesson from this. Where does the Dove DESCEND and REMAIN (John 1:32-34).

The disciples, who walked with Jesus on the road to Emmaus, did not visually or physically discern that it was Jesus Who was walking with them. They were kept from seeing Him. However, there is one sign that they discerned: THERE HEARTS WERE GREATLY MOVED and BURNED WITHIN THEM as they walked with Him (Luke 24:32). This also is a lesson: If you are truly with Jesus, your heart will burn. If what you see is the Lord, in disguise, than your heart will burn. It will move.

An OLD WINESKIN mindset will never perceive the New Wine. A second day paradigm will never discern a Third Day operation. We must let the Holy Spirit do a shifting within us. Only those who have eyes to see and ears to hear will hear. Jesus is showing up in new ways in this New Day. He may do things that are weird and CONTRARY to what WE THINK is Him. Like the disciples, we may see things that look demonic or frightening. We may experience Divine encounters that will seem UN-GODLY, but WE MUST JUDGE THE FRUIT. Do not judge a book by it's COVER. The spiritual movements of old must not be used as a grid for what is here and to come. God is not Who we THINK He is; He is Who He SAYS He is...PERIOD. Only TOTAL dependence on the Dove will do.

This may seem like an unorthodox message but it is VITAL. This is meant to help us learn to SEE HIM. Our conceptions of Jesus are about to be unraveled. He is coming as Who He IS, not who we think He is.

John 1:31, Amplified:

“...He should be made manifest and be revealed to Israel [be brought out where we can SEE HIM]...”