

“Unrecognizable”

*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.
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.*

*Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.
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.*

Isaiah 53:2-5 (NIV)

Two others also, who were criminals, were being led away to be put to death with Him.

When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. But Jesus was saying, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves. And the people stood by, looking on. And even the rulers were sneering at Him, saying, “He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One.” The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up to Him, offering Him sour wine, and saying, “If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!” Now there was also an inscription above Him, “THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.”

One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, “Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!” But the other answered, and rebuking him

said, “Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? “And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” And he was saying, “Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!” And He said to him, “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.”

Luke 23:32-45 (NIV)

Growth Group Questions

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Do you ever plan something out and envision how it will play out when that moment arrives? Why or why not?
2. Looking back on your life, is there one moment you wish you had noticed that it was a great moment in your life? And why does this moment take on a different meaning today than it did back then?
3. When we look back at the time Jesus was walking the earth there were many people who could not recognize that he was the true son of God. Do you think you would have realized that he was who he said he was?
4. Reread Isaiah 53:2-5. The description of Jesus is not something that most of us would use in describing THE KING. Why do you think those words were chosen to describe Jesus?
5. The Bible says that "All good things come from God." With that said, why is it so hard for you to recognize these moments that you have daily?
6. Jesus didn't go get plastic surgery for his Scars. He left them there was a reminder of how beautiful his people are with scars. Do your scars hold you back or not back? And why do you feel the need to hide the scars or the need to share the scars?