

Embrace
Holy
Living

RE- FLECTING GOD

03/03/13 - Living Portrait

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John 7:14-24

We have no eyewitness drawings or descriptions of Jesus' physical appearance. The earliest portraits date from several hundred years after he returned to heaven. Some depict Jesus as a youthful and beardless good shepherd, others show him as the masculine ideal with long hair and beard displaying a noble aspect of serene holiness, and still others depict him crucified with weeping women kneeling at his feet.

The Bible contains a much older word picture: "See, my servant . . . his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness . . . He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him." (Isa. 52:13-14; 53:2).

Evidently some in Jesus' own day felt he did not fit their picture of the Messiah, "How did this man get such learning without having been taught?" (v. 15). Correct spiritual judgment, Jesus reminds us, comes when we choose to do the will of God. Only then can we see the picture.

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