

⁴⁹ **And He said to them, “Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be ^qabout ^rMy Father’s business?”** No longer allowed to be with mom in the kitchen, he is—as most Jewish boys—about His **Father’s business**. ⁵⁰ **But ^sthey did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.**

⁵¹ **Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was ⁴subject to them, but His mother ^tkept all these things in her heart.** Found first after the shepherds visited her 12 years earlier. ⁵² **And Jesus ^uincreased in wisdom** Was He ever foolish? Of course not, but rather His mental capacity grew and His **wisdom increased** with it. Awareness, drive, innate God consciousness and pleasure for His Father grew and developed. This need not think He grew up thinking Joseph was His biological father and that He was to be a carpenter’s apprentice. His maturity and sobriety grew—along with His ability to converse; work ethic, commitment, fulfillments of His commitments all **increased**, it seems. **and stature, ^vand in favor with God** 3:22 leads us to believe that the crescendo of this growth **in favor with God** was at His baptism and restated (probably) at the Mount of Transfiguration. The only thing we have to see between His birth and His baptism was this snapshot at age 12 and it is summarized as “well-pleasing.”

and men. A seeming restatement of verse 40.

53 Who ^ahas believed our report?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

² **For He shall grow up before Him** often translated as “in the face of”; this could therefore be translated as “Jesus will **grow up** in the face of God.” This is especially salient when you consider Isaiah 1:12 (and following) where Israel’s appearance in God’s face is a repugnant thing to God. They are wicked people. **as a tender plant**, Jesus did not have dirty hands as it applies to His Own sinfulness, but consider God, in a sense, having dirty hands to protect His Son all the while. As a boy, I would care for **a tender plant** by mowing over it until my father brought swift correction. He would see an oak tree sapling and put a little cage around it and water it every night. Jesus didn’t **grow up** in the face of God like a mighty cedar or a strong oak. All around Jesus, as seen at His temptation and in the garden, angels stood nearby.

And as a root out of dry ground. A point of application may be:

1. “We should enjoy our children’s development” (sports, creativity, the arts);
2. maybe it should be “we should enjoy being enjoyed by God.” I want to enjoy **growing up before Him as a tender plant.**
3. Enjoy God’s enjoyment of Christ.

^q John 9:4

^r [Mark 1:22; Luke 4:22, 32; John 4:34; 5:17, 36]

^s Mark 9:32; Luke 9:45; 18:34; John 7:15, 46

⁴ obedient

^t Dan. 7:28

^u [Is. 11:2, 3; Col. 2:2, 3]

^v 1 Sam. 2:26; [Prov. 3:1–4]

^a John 12:38; Rom. 10:16

VERSE 1

Father, how sweet must be the pleasure
You find in Your eternal Son
For long before You made the heavens
Both You and He rejoiced as one
And long before You formed the angels
Before You made the day and night
Jesus exulted in Your presence
And He was all of Your delight.

VERSE 2

Father, what love You've shown to rebels
That You would send Your Son so dear
Into this world of grief and trouble
To bring unworthy sinners near
We'll never fathom how it pained You
When You supplied the offering
To rescue those who had disdained You
To watch Your dear Son suffering

VERSE 3

Jesus, it fills our hearts with wonder
That You would leave Your heavenly place
To take on flesh to thirst and hunger
To save the ones who spurned Your grace
You came to forfeit every mercy
To die that mercy we would find
And then You hung alone in darkness
So in our hearts Your grace would shine

VERSE 4

Jesus, in glory You've ascended
Never again to leave Your throne
Because of You we are befriended
Received and welcomed as God's own
Father, how sweet now is Your pleasure
In us, Your daughters and Your sons
We will delight in You forever
In Jesus You have made us one.¹

He has no ¹form or ²comeliness; And when we see Him, *There is no* ³beauty that we should desire Him.

53:3

^b**He** The one Who: 1. Is the arm of the Lord (verse 1 with a backdrop of 52:10), growing up as an unattractive, tender plant (53:2); 2. Is thought of as cursed by those who **despised and rejected** Him.

¹<https://sovereigngracemusic.org/music/songs/father-how-sweet/> [accessed 11/28/2018].

¹ Stately form

² splendor

³ Lit. *appearance*

^b Ps. 22:6; [Is. 49:7; Matt. 27:30, 31; Luke 18:31–33; 23:18]

What do you **despise**? Do you **despise** neutral things that have no innate negative value; can you think of an insect that you **despise**? That to which you show contempt? That which you hate?

Are there things that are just wrong? They are wrong to you and they should be wrong to anybody? Don't you **despise** abusers of children and manipulative politicians and animal neglectors and freeloaders? Is there anything more bothersome than those who ...Don't you just hate and **despise** these very ideas?

What do you **reject**? Do you **reject** things that make you uncomfortable? Do you **reject** that you must be cold when you run to turn up the thermostat? Do you **reject** the idea of being hungry when you work hard to eat well? Don't you **reject** the possibility of your children being misunderstood and mismanaged when you make appointments to meet with those in their lives who lead them and are supposed to love them?

What love my God would send the Way of Life
To walk the road, rejected and despised
That you might know the weakness I possess
And be my rock of strength and righteousness.²

What was there worth **despising** and **rejecting** concerning this “tender plant?” Was it all the free food He made for everyone? Was it the free healthcare He gave? Was it the peace that He brought where He taught us to turn the other cheek? You see, we had the perfect socialistic society where everybody was taught to share what was theirs with everyone else; to love their enemies with their actions; to be both healed and healing, and what did we do? We **despised** and **rejected** Him.

“Pastor Bill, I did not **despise** and **reject** Him.”

Then, your sins were not laid upon Him. For it is the “we” of verses 3 and 4; it is the “our” of verse 5 that connect us with the “us all” of verse 6.

But before we get to that, allow me to tell you why we **despised** and **rejected** Him: There are two reasons:

1. We had a problem with His words (John 6, they had no problems with Jesus and His free lunch program; they had a problem with His preaching which include topics like belief, sin, needs, and life).
2. It pleased the Lord to bruise Him (53:10-11).
3. Is God's garbage dump (53:6 with 53:8c, 53:10, 53:11c, 53:12c). Have you ever had your disgust and your despire and your contempt and your rejection aroused when you passed a garbage dump? Have you ever been around anything so disgusting as a place where food refuse and rotting nastiness mingle to form a pungent recoil of your reflexes? God raised Christ through 33 years as tender plant to take our excesses and depresses, our furies and our flurries of sin and

²<http://www.cityalight.com/what-love-my-god/> [accessed 11/25/18].

dump them on His tender plant where He became, ultimately, this **Man of sorrows**, ^c**acquainted with grief**. Whose **grief**? Our **grief** (53:4).

And we John 1:11 says this is the Jews, but we don't have to look far if we understand the ministry of Isaiah was to the Israelite people. **hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.**

The reason, then, that we most **despised and rejected** Him is because, on that cross, He looked like our sin...which was "laid on Him" (53:6). I learned at the chiropractor that a small adjustment made a lot of difference. Sometimes, as we first start out, we quickly repent of all the obvious sin (the unforgiveness; the unclean conduct), but many of us now need to quickly seek minor adjustments to find the same tenderness of this **despised and rejected** "plant". It may be a week before you notice a change on how you feel, but a little clicking and a little realignment—which is inconvenient and somewhat, immediately painful—finds that we appreciate this Jesus, and rather **despise and reject** our sin.

^cHeb. 4:15