



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD



I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO PASS OUT CHURCH PICNIC FLYERS IN THE IRVINGTON AREA ON SATURDAY. IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL DAY AND MANY FRIENDLY PEOPLE WELCOMED MY INFORMATION. I REALIZED SEVERAL THINGS WHILE GOING DOOR TO DOOR. MANY PEOPLE HAVE DOGS, LOTS OF HOMES HAVE THE "RING" SURVEILLANCE CAMERA, AND EVERYONE WHO IS HOME DOESN'T ANSWER THE DOOR. BUT IT WAS TRULY A GOOD DAY.

THAT GOT ME TO THINKING ABOUT JESUS' NEIGHBORHOOD AND WONDERING WHAT IT WAS LIKE. WHEN I SEARCHED THE CITIES OF NAZARETH AND NEARBY CANA IN MY BIBLE PROGRAM, I LEARNED THESE THINGS ABOUT WHAT PEOPLE IN CHRIST'S COMMUNITY THOUGHT ABOUT HIM.

1. HE WAS THE OBSCURE ONE. HIS HOMETOWN WAS A SMALL VILLAGE OFF THE BEATEN PATH - LUKE 1:26-27
2. HE WAS THE FAVORABLE ONE, KNOWN BY THOSE IN HIS CITY AS A GOOD AND GODLY BOY - SEE LUKE 2:52
3. HE WAS THE PREDICTED ONE. PHILIP IDENTIFIED HIM AS THE ONE OF WHOM MOSES SPOKE - JOHN 1:45
4. HE WAS THE QUESTIONABLE ONE. NATHANAEL FOUND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT ANY GOOD THING COULD COME OUT OF NAZARETH - JOHN 1:46
5. HE WAS THE IMPRESSIVE ONE, WHEN HE TURNED WATER INTO WINE AT A WEDDING IN CANA - JOHN 2:11
6. HE WAS THE LIKEABLE ONE, FOR WHEN HE TAUGHT IN THE SYNAGOGUE AT NAZARETH "ALL WERE SPEAKING WELL OF HIM, AND WONDERING AT THE GRACIOUS WORDS WHICH WERE FALLING FROM HIS LIPS." - LUKE 4:22
7. HE WAS THE HEALING ONE. A ROYAL OFFICIAL FROM CANA SOUGHT HIM OUT TO REMEDY THE AILMENT OF HIS DYING SON - JOHN 4:49
8. HE WAS THE PROPHECYING ONE. AS HE TRIUMPHANTLY ENTERED JERUSALEM THE CROWDS IDENTIFIED JESUS AS THE PROPHET FROM NAZARETH. - MATTHEW 21:11
9. HE WAS THE HOLY ONE OF GOD. THE DEMONS KNEW HIM AS SUCH AND FEARED HIM GREATLY. - SEE MARK 1:24 AND LUKE 4:34

SO, HOW ARE WE KNOWN IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS? I'M SURE THERE ARE MANY ASPECTS TO OUR COMMUNITY IDENTITY, BUT I PRAY THAT THIS ONE PREVAILS. MIGHT WE BE KNOWN AS CHRISTIANS WHO ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT JESUS AND LOVING TO THOSE AROUND US. "OWE NOTHING TO ANYONE EXCEPT TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER; FOR HE WHO LOVES HIS NEIGHBOR HAS FULFILLED THE LAW." (ROMANS 13:8).

LOOKING UP!

PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE