

# Commodity Peanut Butter

## Isaiah 53:1-3

Early in our marriage, Sara and I worked at the Alabama Christian College school cafeteria. We were dirt poor with only a \$15.00 a week grocery budget. The manager of the cafeteria, Mrs. Foster, took pity on us and would, from time to time, give us donated commodity food. These foods were not brand name items and, frankly, due to their less than high visual appeal, were not at all commonly sought after items.

One such example was commodity peanut butter. No frills, not additives, no flavor enhancers, just basic ground up peanuts, and coarse ground at that. Additionally, to add to the unrefined nature of the product, the oil rose to the top requiring considerable effort to stir it back into the thick, paste like remainder. But if peanuts were what you wanted in your peanut butter, commodity peanut butter was as the thing for you. It was the real deal. It was unadorned, basic, plain, nutritional, it's-all-about-the-peanuts, peanut butter.

The ways of the Christ have much in common with commodity peanut butter. Jesus arrived on earth, lived among us, and left, all in an unadorned, basic, no frills package. If God was what you wanted, Jesus was as good as it got (Jn. 14:7-9). He offered no distractions, no hype, no worldly finery, no spin, no guff—just the real stuff. He required work to enjoy His blessings and He was, in many ways, an acquired taste. Spoiled by worldly flavors, consistencies, and aromas, the taste, texture and smell of the real deal was commonly unappreciated (Jn. 5:39-47). In this there is a HUGE message.

### Therefore

- Whose tastes do I most want to satisfy (Gal. 1:10; I Cor. 9:19-23)?
- Whose rejection do I most fear (Jn 12:42; Matt. 10:28)?
- How much time, energy, and resources do I devote to fitting in with the priorities and preferences of the world's temporal priorities (II Tim. 4:10)? With God's (Jn. 4:34)?
- Where is my treasure (Matt. 6:19-21)?
- What do I desire, covet, and love most (Jn. 14:15, 23)?

*This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding trough (Lk. 2:12). He has no form or majesty that we should look upon Him (Isa. 53:2). Is **this** Jesus our commodity of choice?*

edwin (9-11-05)