

The Bulwark

DECEMBER 22, 2024

GUESS WHO???

The morning of January 12, 2007 a rather unique experiment played out in a subway train station in Washington D.C.. A world renowned master violinist was asked to perform, incognito in the station while passengers scuttled by he played. He played for 45 minutes, during which times 1,097 people passed by. Twenty seven dropped money in his open violin case, totaling \$32.17. Only seven people spent any appreciable times listening to the music Joshua Bell, who is described as being the “poet of the violin”. What is striking is that two days before, Bell had used the same \$3.5 million Stradivarius violin for a sold-out concert where people paid over \$100 a seat to hear him perform much of the same material.



How could anyone over look Deity? *“For in Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”* (Colossians 1:16-17)

Riddle me this, why did the people in Jesus’ day, who were looking for the Messiah, not recognize Him for who He is? Maybe the answer to that question comes back to what people expect. People today don’t expect world class musicians to lay in a subway station for “chump change”. In the days of Jesus they didn’t expect the Messiah to be born of humble circumstance. They longed for and expected the Messiah to be a physical king and establish a physical kingdom—not the head of a spiritual kingdom. This thinking was in evidence up to the times Jesus ascended to the right hand of the Father, *“Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?”* (Acts 1:6)

To say that the people in the first century were blinded as to God’s purpose in sending His Son, would be an understatement. He came to effectively deal with sin (John 1:29), fulfill the Law and the prophets

(Matthew 5:17-18) and build His church/kingdom (Matthew 16:18-19). All of which He did as is in evidence by numerous passages of Scripture, not the least of which is Colossians 1:13-29.

That day on the subway, how many hundreds of people passed by and missed the beauty and genius of a master musician? So sad that people are too busy to appreciate beauty. However, what is even more pathetic, is how millions have not awakened to the beauty and majesty of Jesus, who is the Christ. He walked with mankind, and most did not recognize Him. Not much has changed has it? (wbe) [note: this article was re-run by request, it first appeared 12/22/2013 in the Bulwark]

The idea of a person not being recognized for his greatness isn’t new. People get so caught up in what they are doing, where they are going and for the most part are oblivious to what is going on around them. While it is one thing to not recognize a virtuoso with a violin, it something different when it comes to Jesus. *“He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.”* (John 1:10-11)

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