Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

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Popularity

"We live in a society obsessed with public opinion. But leadership has never been about popularity." – Marco Rubio

"I don't care whether people like me or dislike me. I'm not on earth to win a popularity contest. I'm here to be the best human being I possibly can be." – Tab Hunter

"Avoid popularity if you would have peace." – Abraham Lincoln

"I don't aspire to have high approval ratings. I aspire, in light of my two predecessors, to be the most honest governor I can be. I'd rather focus on honesty than popularity." – Pat Quinn

"The actor's popularity is evanescent; applauded today, forgotten tomorrow." – Harrison Ford

There are some folks that just thrive on popularity. They always want to be the center of attention, and anything less is just unacceptable.

Years ago, the famed drummer Buddy Rich, while performing before an audience became irate when they did not put a spotlight on him. He took at a pack of matches and lit the whole thing and threw it in front of his drum set in protest.

Certainly Scripture tells us of those who craved popularity. Some sought to achieve it by seeking to please everybody. David's son, Absalom, is said to have positioned himself at the gate of the city, and when people would come to the King for judgment, Absalom would take their side in an effort to win their favor. And the Bible says, "…So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel" (2 Sam. 15:6).

Other men would take a different approach to win popularity. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus spoke of those who did charitable deeds, offered prayers, and disfigured their faces to pretend to be fasting, all to be seen by men (Matt. 6:1,5,16). Jesus said of the scribes and Pharisees, "But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi'" (Matt. 23:5-7).

It is truly amazing the lengths that some people will go to just to get the proverbial pat on the back; or to hear the sound of applause. It is for this reason that some people could never do, for example, mission work. There would be no audience to give them praise. No crowd to gather and cheer and applaud.

Is it better to be in the limelight, or to walk in the light (Psa. 119:105)?