

**A Man from Nazareth**

This morning's Advent passage represents something of a Christmas mystery. If you open your concordance or do a Google search, you will discover that there is no verse in the entire Old Testament in which it is prophesied that the Messiah will be from Nazareth.

1. Matthew is being very deliberate
  - a. His statement concerning the prophets is the point of this text.
  - b. His choice of words here is unique
    - i. "Prophets" is plural
    - ii. "That" he would be called . . .
2. What 'could' it mean to be called a 'Nazarene?'
  - a. That Jesus was a 'Nazarite' *Num. 6:1-21*
  - b. That Jesus was a 'shoot' (Nezer) *Is. 11:1*
  - c. That Jesus was a 'nobody'- a 'hick' *Jn. 1:45-46*
3. Who calls Jesus a Nazarene?
  - a. A possessed man *Mk. 1:24; Lk. 4:34*
  - b. A crowd near Jericho *Lk. 18:37*
  - c. The crowds in Jerusalem *Matt. 21:11*
  - d. The mob who arrested Jesus *Jn. 18:5-7*
  - e. The high priest's servant girl *Mk. 14:67; Matt. 26:71*
  - f. Pilate's sign atop the cross *Jn. 19:19*
  - g. The young man at the tomb *Mk. 16:6*
  - h. Cleopas after the resurrection *Lk. 24:19*
4. What prophecies foretold this?
  - a. *Ps. 22:6* "scorned by mankind and despised by the people"
  - b. *Is. 53:3* "despised and rejected by men... he was despised and we esteemed him not."
  - c. *Zech. 11:4-14* "they detested me"

**Application:**

1. How much does Jesus love you?
2. How will you respond to the love 'the Nazarene' has shown you?