

Easter 2021 001

3-21-21

## **The Suffering Savior**

### **Isaiah 53:1-6**

#### **I. Introduction:**

##### **A. Approaching Easter**

1. Approaching Easter in 3 weeks, we begin a series of messages culminating on Easter Sunday Morning. I implore you to make corporate worship a priority for you.

##### **B. The Suffering Servant**

1. In this passage is found Isaiah's prophesy concerning the first advent of Christ.
2. The resurrection we celebrate was the victory event at the end of His ministry.
3. Jesus came here the first time with the sole purpose of taking our sin upon Himself and dying on the cross.
4. Jesus took sin upon Himself & suffered the Father's wrath so we can be forgiven.
5. The resurrection is important for two reasons:
  - (1) – Validation of Christ
    - a. The physical bodily resurrection of Jesus proves his identity. He's sinless Savior.
    - b. Jesus is the eternal God who came here to die for the sin of the world.
  - (2) – His sacrifice accepted
    - a. Jesus arose from the grave proving the Father accepted His sacrifice on our behalf.
    - b. Jesus' vicarious suffering paid the penalty of our sin. Our debt was paid in Him.

#### **II. Isaiah's prophesy (Isaiah 53:1)**

##### **A. Isaiah's complaint**

1. Isaiah complained that so many were unbelieving.
2. Isaiah's heart was heavy that so many were rejecting the gospel & thus condemning themselves to God's judgment.
3. As God's prophet, Isaiah desired for others to hear God's word & be saved.

##### **B. Same today**

1. Not much has changed in 2,700 years! It's small number of people who hear & receive the gospel, responding to the conviction and drawing of the Holy Spirit.
2. Those who are saved are few compared to the masses of humanity in every generation.
3. Two things we might consider:
  - (1) – The truth is unchanged.
    - a. The authority of God's word is not diminished in any degree just because the majority of men and women choose to reject it.
    - b. We are all sinners. The penalty of sin is death. The only forgiveness of sin is by faith in Jesus. No matter how many people reject the gospel, it is still true.
  - (2) – Our hearts are heavy.
    - a. We are troubled that so many will perish & spend eternity in the lake of fire.
    - b. Like Isaiah, we long for people to respond to God's grace as offered in the gospel.

### C. No excuse for dullness

1. Isaiah then pointed out that his fellow Hebrews were without excuse. (**Isaiah 53:1b**)
2. The arm of God means His mighty works, particularly His mighty works for Israel.
3. Isaiah was saying God had shown Himself to be mighty on their behalf over & over.
4. They were blind to the things God had been doing for them.
5. Example: In **Ezra 1:1-6** the Persian King, Cyrus, issued an edict that the Jews could return to their land. Ezra pointed out God stirred up Cyrus to allow Jews to return home.
6. At the end of 70 years of captivity, God was working on their behalf.
7. The people were too spiritually dull to see it. They were without excuse before God.

### D. Same is true today.

1. According to **John 16:8**, the Holy Spirit is at work today convicting people of sin.
2. He is at work in the world today drawing them to saving faith in Jesus.
3. The gospel goes out today in more ways than ever in the history of the world.
4. Men and women today are without excuse before God.

## III. The first advent of Christ (Isaiah 53:2)

### A. Descriptive

- Isaiah describes the first advent of Christ in two ways.
  1. – Like a tender plant, a twig
    - a. Jesus was born humanly after the line of David.
    - b. The line of David had been cut off since the Babylonian captivity.
    - c. For almost 600 years no king in the line of David had ruled over Israel.
    - d. Jesus' birth was like a tender plant, springing from a tree root that looked dead.
    - e. The line of David was never fully cut off, Joseph & Mary were both of David's line.
  2. – No form or comeliness
    - a. Jesus did not come to this earth the first time in power and majesty.
    - b. When people looked at Jesus there was nothing drawing them to Him as King.
    - c. Religious leaders rejected Jesus because He did not fit their idea of the Messiah.
    - d. His Ministry: The ministry of Jesus was one of humility and service.
    - e. Jesus preached and taught that men should believe on Him by faith and be saved.
    - f. Jesus lived a simple life with no human army, no political agenda, seeking no fame.
    - g. There was nothing about Jesus attractive to people who cared only about the world.
  3. – Application: There is nothing attractive about Jesus to people who love this world.

## IV. The response to Jesus (Isaiah 53:3)

### A. Despised and rejected

1. To despise someone means to look down on them with disrespect.
2. The people of Jesus' day despised Him. Jesus had no more than a small group of men who served with Him. **John 6:66** states many of His disciples departed from Him.
3. Jesus didn't fit the mold people were looking for in the Messiah so they rejected Him.

### B. Did not see the need

1. The people of Jesus' day did not see the need of a Savior.
2. They considered themselves religious & in good standing before God.
3. They did not see their sin, nor need to repent of sin and trust Jesus by faith to be saved.
4. Application: People today say they are good people & do more good than bad.
5. Most people today think they are going to heaven when they die.
6. They do not see a need for a Savior and therefore they reject Jesus and the gospel.

## V. **The Vicarious Suffering of Jesus (Isaiah 53:4-5)**

- *The prophesy concerning the suffering Jesus endured on our behalf is incredible.*
- *Isaiah wrote this prophesy some 700 years before Jesus was born.*

### A. **Jesus suffered in our place.**

1. All the suffering of Jesus was vicarious. His suffering was in our stead.
2. We deserve to be punished for our sin. We deserve God's wrath upon us for our sin.
3. Jesus stood in our place, He took our suffering. He took our punishment.
4. Description
  - (1) – Took our griefs and sorrows.
    - a. Sin always brings grief and sorrow. Sin always bring hurt and pain.
  - (2) – Wounded for our transgressions
    - a. Transgression is another word for sin.
    - b. It means breaking God's law, transgressing a boundary.
    - c. Jesus wounded for our sin. Jesus endured the suffering of the cross for us.
  - (3) – By His stripes we are healed.
    - a. The healing here is not physical, but spiritual. Sin always bring death.
    - b. When we confess our sin & by faith ask His forgiveness, we're granted healing.
    - c. Jesus freely gives His righteousness & His eternal life to all who trust Him by faith.

## VI. **All need healing (Isaiah 53:6)**

### A. **All like sheep**

1. As sinners we are like sheep who wonder off in whatever direction sinful flesh leads.
2. Sin just draws us here and there, always with great harm and cost of life.
3. Application: We forsake God's way for our own way thinking our way is better.
4. Warning: The path of sin is always death. (**Proverbs 16:25**)

### B. **Our guilt laid on Jesus**

1. He took the full and complete punishment for all our sin.
2. Available: Way of forgiveness & salvation is available for all who will come by faith.
3. Rather than wondering in our own way, we can walk in the way of the Lord.
4. We can find peace and rest in the Chief Shepherd's pasture.