
Week 3 Sermon, December 17, 2023

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 – *Born to Suffer*

Discussion Questions

1. In this passage of scripture, we are able to see why Jesus is counted worthy to reign and redeem His people. What does it mean when Isaiah prophesies of the suffering servant? How can we be certain he is referring to Jesus? (Hint: see Acts 8:27-35.)
2. In verse 3, Isaiah says, “He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.” *Grief* here is synonymous with pain. What kind of pain did Jesus experience? Look back to chapter 1:5-6 to see how sin affected Israel and us. How have you added to the sorrows of Jesus? Take time to confess and pray.
3. Read through verses 4-6 and note the pronouns. Whose sins was Christ bearing? He gets the blame and we get the benefits. Compare this section of scripture with Romans 3:9-26. How can God see us as righteous? What does Paul say in 2 Corinthians 5:21?
4. Because Christ knew why His Father had sent Him, He was able to fully submit, not opening His mouth, remaining silent. He was the perfect, spotless Lamb of God (see Revelation 5:6-13) sacrificed for sin, as foreshadowed in the Old Testament. Think of times when you have been unable to remain silent at seeming injustice; can it even begin to compare with the treatment Jesus received? How might you grow in being submissive to your Heavenly Father?
5. John R.W. Stott said, “For the essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting Himself for man.”¹ How could it please God and be His will to crush His own Son (verse 10)? How can you respond to someone who uses this as proof text saying that God is cruel?
6. Read Hebrews 12:2-3. What exhortation is there to persevere in suffering, grief or doubt? What comfort do you find in the fact that Jesus is interceding in prayer for you (Hebrews 7:25)? How can this change the way you pray for others God lays on your heart? Pray together for our church, our nation and individuals.

¹Stott, John R.W. *The Cross of Christ*. InterVarsity Press: Downers Grove, IL 1986