

Thursday, March 8, 2018

Final Sacrifice – [Isaiah 53](#)

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53:5

As much as yesterday's reading in Psalm 22 recalled the Roman soldiers' brutality at the crucifixion as the mocking crowds jeered and sneered, today's reading in Isaiah 53 reminds us that we are the reason Jesus died. Read again verses 4-6, noting how often first person plural words – *we*, *us*, and *our* – are used. Jesus died at the hands of the Romans, but it was our sin that compelled Him to go to the cross.

This chapter of the Suffering Servant also remind us that, while the Jewish religious leaders demanded for Pilate to instruct his soldiers to crucify Jesus, none of them "forced" Jesus to be crucified. Jesus bore our sins on the cross because He was "smitten by God" (v. 4) and "it was the will of God to crush Him" (v. 10). God Himself offered the only means by which our sins could be forgiven and sinful man could be reconciled with a holy God.

The gospel accounts of the crucifixion also reveal the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah 53: the silence of Jesus before Pilate and Herod, the crucifixion with the two thieves, the burial in a rich man's tomb, the innocence of Jesus. And, it reaffirms that through the death of Jesus, the sins of many will be forgiven and they (we) will be counted as righteous.

Consider the magnitude of this. Our sin separates us from the holy God. Yet, He desires to restore our broken relationship. Our only hope is for the holy, just, and righteous God to take our sin upon Himself and to call us righteous. God proves that He is also merciful, gracious, and kind.

Today, recall the high cost of your sin, repent, and yield your life to God. You can trust Him to care for you.