

The Cross

1 Peter 3:18

Isaiah 53:1–12

Isaiah 53:1

"Who believes what we've heard and seen? Who would have thought GOD's saving power would look like this?" (The Message Bible)

1/ God's plan was different from the Jesus people wanted, so God knew we would miss Jesus when He came.

Isaiah 53:2–6

"The servant grew up before God—a scrawny seedling, a scrubby plant in a parched field. There was nothing attractive about him, nothing to cause us to take a second look. He was looked down on and passed over." (The Message Bible)

We keep trying to make Jesus the Savior we want.

The very things that Jesus had were not the things we wanted Jesus to have.

Isaiah 53:4&5

"But the fact is, it was our pains he carried— our disfigurements, all the things wrong with us. We thought he brought it on himself, that God was punishing him for his own failures. But it was our sins that did that to him, that ripped and tore and crushed him—our sins! He took the punishment, and that made us whole." (The Message Bible)

The cross is the perfect mirror of the human condition.

The cross is a reminder that Jesus took our place and stood in our space.

Isaiah 53:8

"He died without a thought for his own welfare, beaten bloody for the sins of my people." (The Message Bible)

Isaiah 53:10–12

2/ God's purpose was to tell the story behind the story: God is love!

Jeremiah 31:3

"The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness." (NIV)

The only way you could ever be a genuine recipient of love is to have the absolute opportunity to reject it.

The cross cannot be understood apart from love.

I am the only one that can keep myself from embracing God's love.

Christ lived the life we could not live and took the punishment we could not take; to offer the love and hope we cannot resist!

John 1:10–11

"He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize Him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him." (NIV)

2 Corinthians 5:21

"God made him who had not sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (NIV)

April 14, 2019



Message MM183