

THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

EVERY STORY WHISPERS THE NAME OF JESUS



The Suffering Servant

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Main Idea

God has sent His Son as a servant to be the substitute for our sins and satisfy God's wrath against us.

Overview

- **In the midst of Israel's rebellion, Isaiah shares the hope of a coming Messiah**
- **Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would come in what is often referred to as the Servant Songs**
 - FIRST SONG (Is. 42:1-4) – HE WOULD BE A LIGHT TO THE GENTILES
 - SECOND SONG (Is. 49:1-6) – HE WOULD SUFFER DISCOURAGEMENT
 - THIRD SONG (Is. 50:4-9) – HE WOULD SUFFER PAIN AND REJECTION
 - FOURTH SONG (Is. 52:13-53:12) – THE REASON FOR ALL THIS SUFFERING
 - The fourth song is structured like a song with five stanzas of three verses each
 - Each stanza further identified the work and the ministry of the coming Messiah
 - Goliath saw as man sees (1 Sam. 17:42-43)
 - David's saw and trusted the Lord for Future Grace due to his seeing past grace
- **Isaiah 52:13-15 – THE SUCCESSFUL SERVANT**
 - The servant will act "wisely" (vs.13)
 - He will accomplish what he purposes to do
 - He will be exalted (Philippians 2:9-11)
 - Though now he is beaten beyond recognition
 - He will act as a priest among the nations
- **Isaiah 53:1-3 – THE SURPRISING SERVANT**
 - The Messiah will not "look" like one who can save
 - He will not be of the expected pedigree (vs.2)
 - Men will reject him and find him ordinary and even offensive (vs. 3)
- **Isaiah 53:4-6 – THE SUFFERING SERVANT**
 - Isaiah paints one of the clearest pictures of the gospel found in the Old Testament
 - Isaiah uses defining terms to make sure that none would misunderstand
 - He uses the terms WE, OUR and US nine times
 - He uses the terms HE, HIM and HIS seven times

- The suffering of the servant is not due to his own sin, but ours
 - He takes on our DISEASE to bring us HEALING (vs.5)
 - He takes on our PUNISHMENT to bring us PEACE (vs.5)
 - Christ becomes the “sinner” so that we can become the “child” of God
 - He who was righteous, becomes sin, so that we who are sinners may become righteous (cf. 2 Cor. 5:21)
 - Christ took on the ALL SIN
 - “All” have sent Christ to such a death (vs. 6)
 - None are innocent or less to blame
- **Isaiah 53:7-9 – THE SILENT SERVANT**
 - The servant Christ is silent before his adversaries (vs. 7)
 - Pilate could not understand his silence (Matthew 27:12-14)
 - The eunuch could not understand his silence (Acts 8:34-35)
 - **Isaiah 53:10-12 – THE SATISFIED SERVANT**
 - God is satisfied as sinners are made “just”
 - Christ is satisfied as his work was complete – “it is finished” (John 19:30)

Questions

Discussion starter: What is impressive or unimpressive about Jesus to people today?

1. In 52:13 it says the Servant acted “wisely.” What does Isaiah mean by this and why does it look as though the Servant does not act wisely?
2. How does the accuracy of Isaiah’s prophecy, which was 700 years before the crucifixion of Christ, show God’s “purposefulness” of the atoning work of Christ?
3. Isaiah states that people will not even want to acknowledge Christ as the Messiah because he will not have the “look” to impress. How is this prophecy true in our day? What “look” do you think men look for today in a Messiah?
4. What comes to you mind when you read that Christ bore our “griefs” and our “sorrows” ?
5. Isaiah makes it a point that Christ does not just take away our sins and absorb our penalty, but that he gives us something. What does Christ give us in the place of our sins (vs.5)? Why is this important to understand?
6. Why do you think the full weight of our sins had to be placed on Christ? Why wasn’t just a “sampling” sufficient?
7. Relate the following passages to Isaiah 53.
 - a. 1 Peter 3:18
 - b. 1 John 2:2
 - c. Galatians 3:13
8. Why do you think Pilate and the chief priests found it remarkable when Jesus was silent before their accusations? What is human nature when one accuses you of something? What about when you are innocent of the accusations being leveled against you?
9. How would you explain how God has been “satisfied” by the work of Christ? How does Romans 5:18-19 relate to this truth?

Accountability Question: Where in your life are you looking for a Messiah that will “impress” you for your own purposes?