

Sermon Notes – May 15, 2022

Review

- The second half of the book of Isaiah is loaded with God's comfort, even in the face of pain and sorrow. Isaiah 40:1 begins, *"Comfort, O comfort My people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, and her iniquity is pardoned..."*
- Last week on Mother's Day, we heard words of strong security as God reminded His people that He had not abandoned them, despite their current difficulties that they had brought upon themselves. Even in their sinful state, God says, "I have covered you in the shadow of My hand...You are my people."

Today's text: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Today's text has been called by some, "The most important Scripture in the Old Testament." That's quite a statement! Another writer says, "Nowhere in the Old Testament does the gospel of Jesus Christ shine more clearly than in Isaiah 53." We find quotations of this text in Luke 22:37, Acts 8:30-35 & I Peter 2:22-25 – all leading us to the work of Jesus on Calvary's cross. This "Song of the Suffering Servant" has five stanzas of three verses each.

The Servant High and Lifted Up (52:13-15)

- ⇒ The song begins on what appears to be a high note...acting wisely, lifted up, exalted...the NAS says He "will _____."
- ⇒ Jarring reality quickly follows. People will look at the Servant with astonishment at that brutality He received.
- ⇒ The word "sprinkle" draws to mind the OT sacrificial system.

The Servant Despised and Rejected (53:1-3)

- ⇒ If the question in verse 1 calls for an answer, the response is "Very few." How many are waiting in Luke 1? How many see the reality of prophecy being fulfilled in their presence on that first Palm Sunday?
- ⇒ "The arm of the Lord" speaks of God's awesome power to save; How many would look at the cross of Christ and see God's power? Hear the Apostle Paul in **Romans 11:33-36!**

- ⇒ Again, listen to Paul in II Corinthians 4:4 as he calls the story of Jesus, **"The gospel of the _____."**
- ⇒ Do you see the multiple statements of His humility in verse 3? There are few traits more lastingly powerful than the strength of true humility (powerful scene from Ben-Hur, 1959).

The Servant Pierced for Our Transgressions (53:4-6)

- ⇒ Do you hear the "voice" of the first-person plural pronouns shouting at us all? The important theological idea here is **"substitution"** – in MY place.
- ⇒ The universal need of us all is clearly outlined in verses 6 – "the iniquity of us all." We are those who have willfully gone astray. Sin is not something that "happens to us," the "innocent victims." No...we are sinners by birth, and we are sinners by _____. Guilty, every one of us.

The Servant Silent Before His Accusers (53:7-9)

- ⇒ The profound _____ of Christ before His accusers is shocking (7).
- ⇒ The raw injustice done to Christ exceeds anything done to you (8). (NOTE: "wicked" = plural; "rich man" = singular)
- ⇒ The genuine _____ of Christ is essential to the gospel (9).

The Servant Crushed, Counted with Transgressors (53:10-12)

- ⇒ The death of Jesus Christ on the cross was profoundly _____ – He satisfied the just wrath of God against sin. This is "propitiation" (11).
- ⇒ The Suffering Servant is spoken of as still existing after His anguished suffering...How can this be? Answer: _____!

Responding to God's Word in Worship & Obedience

- ⇒ Call to mind John 13 and Philippians 2. In His first coming, Jesus came as the humble, suffering Servant and He calls us to follow Him on that path, in humility and even in suffering. **Is that your mindset?**
- ⇒ The early followers of Jesus read this text Christologically – that is, they read Isaiah 53 and saw and rejoiced in the Glory of Jesus Christ, the Suffering Servant! **Do you see it and rejoice in saving faith as well?**

Worship Next Sunday: May 22, 2022

"God Delights To Cover Our Shame" (Isaiah 54:1-17)

Pastor Tyler Pease

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