

THE SUFFERING SERVANT - PART 1

ISAIAH 53

4/13/25

I. OVERVIEW

Isaiah 52:13-15 - "Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. ¹⁴As many were astonished at you— his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind— ¹⁵so shall he sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths because of him, for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand."

A. The Servant will be successful

B. The Servant will suffer

C. The Servant will "sprinkle"

- Sprinkle references the atoning work of the sacrifices

II. WHO IS THIS SUFFERING SERVANT?

Isaiah 53:1-3 - "Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? ²For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. ³He was despised and rejected^[ed] by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not."

A. It's the Messiah

- Early Jewish Rabbis confirm this

B. It's Jesus!

1. New Testament confirms this

*1 Peter 2:21-25 - "For to this you have been called, because **Christ** also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls"*

*Acts 8:32-35 - "Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the **good news about Jesus.**"*

*Luke 22:37 - "For I tell you that this **Scripture must be fulfilled in me:** 'And he was numbered with the transgressors.' For what is written about me has its fulfillment."*

2. Later Rabbis deny this

III. HOW IS HE DESCRIBED?

Isaiah 53:1-3 - "Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? ²For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. ³He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not."

A. Unlikeliness of the Servant

1. Unlikely beginnings - “Young plant, root in a dry ground”
2. Unlikely appearance - “No majesty, no beauty”
3. Unlikely acceptance - “Despised, rejected, acquainted with grief”

IV. WHAT WILL HE DO?

Isaiah 53:4-5 - “Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ 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.”

A. He will take our place

- Vicarious Substitutionary Atonement

B. He will give us gifts

- “Peace, healing”

V. WHY DO WE NEED THIS?

Isaiah 53:6 - “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

- **We wander**
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COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you think about the message this week? What stood out to you or challenged your thinking?
2. Why was it important for God to communicate the details of Jesus’ life 700 years before He showed up? How does knowing this encourage you?
3. How do verses like 53:4-6 impact the way you view Easter? What hope is offered in this passage for us today?
4. How does God’s sacrificial love for us impact the way that we live today? How should it impact the way we treat others?
5. How could you use Isaiah 53 to share hope with someone who doesn’t know Jesus?
6. What is one thing from your group this week or the message that you want to live out? How can the group encourage you as you live this out?

PRAY AS A GROUP

- Challenge the group to share with each other one person that they are hoping to invite to Easter services at MCC...Or maybe it is one person they are praying to have a Gospel conversation with during this Easter season.
 - Easter is a great time to have conversations around the importance of Jesus’ death and resurrection and what He accomplished for us!