

The Fourth Servant Song – Part 1 of 2; Isaiah 52:13 – 53:6 NIV

Do You Know How Much Jesus Suffered For You?

Sixth Wednesday of Lent, April 9, 2014 at 11 AM & 7 PM

Please Join Us:

The “JESUS” Movie – Part 1: 4/13 at 9:30; Part 2: 4/20 at 9:30

Holy Thursday 11 & 7; Good Friday 11 & 7; Easter 7 & 10:45

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: This brief two-part sermon series will focus on the fourth servant song. What does that mean? Approximately 700 years before the time of Jesus the Holy Spirit moved Isaiah to write down the Bible book of Isaiah, which includes four servant songs. The Son of God, *who eventually put on human flesh and was named Jesus*, is God’s Servant. So how did Jesus serve the Father? By being perfectly obedient to the Father’s will, which included great suffering and the laying down of His life!

Many OT passages pointed ahead to God’s work, *through Jesus*, to take away our sins, but none, more so, than this fourth servant song! Even though it was written long before Jesus’ time on earth, it is *very detailed and completely accurate*. But how is that possible? The LORD made this declaration: *“I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come.”* (Isaiah 46:9-10 NIV) So, *since people sinned*, God promised the Savior; *He is the Suffering Servant!* As we learn more about Him, *today and next Thursday*, let us be in awe of God’s great love and Jesus’ great suffering – *which have removed our sins!*

Some comments about today’s text: *The Lutheran Study Bible: “This “vision of Isaiah” (Is 1:1) says what believers feel when, in spirit, they stand at the foot of Golgotha’s cross: penitent sorrow for their part in wounding Jesus, the “man of sorrows” (53:3); [and] humble gratitude that “the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity” (53:6) for which they should have endured the torments of hell.”* (1176)

Martin Luther: “This is the foremost passage on the suffering and resurrection of Christ...” (AE 17:215)

1. **A Summary of God's Servant:**

- a. **Victory and exaltation:** ¹³ **See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.** // Jesus acted very wisely – *in that He perfectly obeyed the will of His Father (Psalm 111:10)*. Then, *when Jesus' saving work was complete*, He was raised to life and exalted at the right hand of God! Long before Jesus saved us, *His victory was certain!* Also, even before He returns, let us know for certain that ♦He is coming and ♦we all desperately need Him as our only Savior!
- b. ¹⁴ **Just as there were many who were appalled at him-- his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness--¹⁵ so will he sprinkle** [*another possible translation is "startle," literally, "cause to leap"*] **many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him. For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand.** //
- i. **Appalled at him:** Try to picture something horrifying; let me help you: **"Several decades ago in North Korea, the Communists discovered Pastor Kim and 27 Christians he was leading, living in hand-dug tunnels. The officials brought them out before a crowd of 30,000 in the village of Gok San. "Deny Christ, or you will die," the Christians were told. They refused. The head officer called for a steamroller to be brought in. He forced the Christians to lie in its path. As its engine revved, they were given one last chance to recant their faith. Again they refused. As the steamroller inched forward, the Christians began to sing: More love to Thee, O Christ, more love to Thee..."¹ as they were crushed to death! Or picture the body of Jesus after He was flogged – as depicted in the movie, *The Passion of the***

¹ Men of Integrity, March/April 2014, Sunday, April 6 devotion.

<http://stonethepreacher.com/2011/06/15/martyrs-hanged-steamrolled.html>

Christ! To be “**appalled**” means to be shocked, horrified, sickened, disgusted; Jesus suffered SO MUCH to win our forgiveness!

- ii. **Startle**: Wow! Think about the day that Jesus’ returns; the Bible says that “**every eye will see him, even those who pierced him...**” (Rev 1:7 NIV) So many who thought He was a nobody will be STARTLED to find out that He is the **King of kings and the Lord of lords!** Then, “**EVERY KNEE WILL BOW...and...every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord...**” (Phil. 2:10-11 NAU)

2. **The Growth and Suffering of God’s Servant:** ^{53:1} **Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?** // Dr. Kretzmann wrote that Isaiah “**deplores the natural lack of interest in the great central message of salvation.... [He also wrote:] The way of salvation, through the suffering of the Messiah, does not appeal to their self-righteousness...**” (OT II:376) In other words, most people wrongly think they are *good enough* – so they *do not need Jesus!*

- a. **Unexpected and ordinary:** ² **He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.** // Regarding the coming Savior, Isaiah wrote that “**A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse...**” (Isaiah 11:1 NIV) Even though *a stump* and *dry ground* seem unlikely to produce anything, Jesus came forth – *as promised!* He is God with flesh, yet *He looked like an ordinary man.*
- b. **Hated and rejected:** ³ **He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed [respected, valued, honored] him not.** // *Jesus lived and loved, taught and healed, yet, sadly, most hated and rejected Him; even His own disciples fled in fear when He was arrested! Even today most people are, at best, lukewarm toward Him (see Rev. 3:14-22)!*

- c. Many thought Jesus' suffering was for HIS sin: ⁴ **Surely he took up our infirmities [illnesses] and carried our sorrows [troubles, burdens], yet we considered him stricken [wounded] by God, smitten [struck hard] by him, and afflicted [distressed with pain].** // Have you ever seen someone suffering; then wondered: What did he do to deserve that? So, *with Jesus*, when people saw Him suffering, *they assumed He was suffering for HIS sin!*
- d. Jesus suffering was actually for OUR sin: ⁵ **But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.** // Think about Jesus allowing those Roman soldiers to stretch Him out on that cross; *then drive large nails through His hands and feet!* He permitted it because WE sinned; *He had NO sin!* Then, when He had received our sins, *He was crushed by God the Father for those sins!* Again, they were not HIS, they were OURS, *yet He took our punishment!* Now, *by grace through faith in Him*, we are healed and at peace!
- e. The great transfer from US to HIM: ⁶ **We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.** // Think about the great number of our sins: Since we can sin in thought, word, and deed, *they add up quickly!* For example: 9 sins/day = 3,000+/year, so 60k at 20 years old, 150k at 50 years old, and 240k at 80 years old. *Those are conservative numbers;* we have strayed so much from God's will for our lives, yet, *in great love*, God the Father put all of our sins, our iniquities, on Jesus!

Conclusion: Now, *trusting in Him and forgiven through Him*, let us devote our lives to Him – *even as He gave His life for us!*

And all God's people said: **Amen!**

Join us for part 2 of 2 on Thursday, March 17, 2014 at 11 AM or 7 PM

For Much More: www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com

Having been saved thru Jesus, let us live for Him and share the good news!

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