

Crucified Isaiah 53

On Good Friday, what did Jesus suffer on our behalf? Isaiah reveals the stunning extent of Jesus' suffering in this prophecy written 500 years before Jesus' arrival. See the Son despised and punished, hanging in agony upon the cross, stricken so that we may be healed.

Simple question:

On Good Friday 2000 yrs ago, what exactly did Jesus suffer on our behalf?

- We discover the answer in this prophecy written 500 years before Jesus came...
- Isaiah 53 gives us 2 answers...

1) He was despised by men

- Jesus suffered shame, ridicule, and abuse at the hands of mankind
 - that's what we gave Jesus on that first Good Friday
- **read v2**
 - **"tender shoot"** – sucker – stunted, undesirable growth from base of a tree
 - bad for tree – makes it look ugly – turns trees into bushes
 - prune it off
 - **"root out of parched ground"**
 - expect God's Messiah to be a mighty oak
 - instead, a withered root trying to grow in dry, cracked soil
 - pull out – put out of its misery – looks pathetic
 - **Describes Jesus' birth and youth**
 - Born to a poor, unmarried girl – scandalous, shameful
 - Not even born in a house! Manger – dirty
 - Grew up in a tiny, insignificant town – carpenter – nothing special
 - **If Jesus would have gone to High School...**
 - NOT "Most Likely to Succeed" or "Most Popular"
 - At HS reunion – most wouldn't even remember him!!
 - **Lived an utterly unremarkable life**
 - **Even looked unremarkable! "no stately form..." Not an attractive man!**
 - 4 Gospels – 3779 verses about Jesus – not 1 description of his appearance!
 - Saul "head and shoulders above his peers"
 - David "ruddy, with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance"
 - Jesus... silence! Why? He was not attractive!!
 - Ironic: Mel Gibson – Passion of the Christ – chose **James Caviezel** – one of People Mag's Sexiest Men Alive
 - You cast the wrong guy!
 - **Jesus is God – could have chosen any body and any family...**
 - chose an unattractive body and a disadvantaged family!
 - **He chose to be born into shame**
- **but worse... read v3**
 - **a man of "sorrow"** = pain
 - **"grief"** = illness – like a person suffering an incurable disease

- body broken, disfigured, miserable
 - Result: He became **like “one from whom men hide their faces”**
 - leper I saw in India – couldn’t look; had to turn away
 - **That’s Jesus on Good Friday**
 - whipped, beaten, bloody, skin torn from His back
 - if you were there – wouldn’t have even wanted to look at Him
 - too uncomfortable; turn your stomach
 - **Leads to conclusion at end of verse... Jesus’ contemporaries...**
 - **“despised” Him** – in Heb: no emotional overtones – not hatred – simply dismissal – didn’t want anything to do w/ Him
 - **“did not esteem” Him** = reckoned to be of no value – regarded him to be worthless – a loser – a failure – a wretched man
- **read v4**
 - **in reality, Jesus suffered in our place** – carried our sorrows for us
 - **but that’s not what the world believed** about Jesus on the first Good Friday
 - they saw a man cursed by God
 - no good man could suffer a fate like that! A horrible sinner; criminal
- **On Good Friday, Jesus suffered the rejection and abuse of the world**
 - **Don’t miss the irony...**
 - Created the world, created human beings...
 - Yet the Creator allowed the creation to despise, reject, and abuse Him.
- **He was despised by men** – but that’s not all... 2nd thing Jesus suffered for us...

2) He was punished by God

- Jesus suffered punishment and wrath at the hands of God
 - that’s what God the Father gave His Son on that first Good Friday
- **read v5-6,10a**
- **The cross was not just a place of death – it was a place of punishment.**
 - righteous wrath of God against sin poured out
 - not on sinners who deserved it, but on God’s own Son who didn’t
- **v5...**
 - “pierced...” pierced fatally by God – for our transgressions
 - “crushed...” broken in pieces, pulverized, trampled to death – for our sins
 - “chastened” – lit: punished by God – for us, for our “well-being”
 - “scourged” – wounded, slashed – for us, for our healing
- **Metaphor of v6...**
 - we’re foolish, rebellious sheep – wander away into sin
 - but the consequences of our sin fall not on us but on Him
 - **“fall on”** not strong enough – lit: attack
 - On the cross, God the Father allowed our sin to attack His Son
- **Isaiah makes it absolutely clear in v10**
 - **God was “pleased” to crush Jesus** – to make Him suffer
 - Not b/c God is a sadist or a child abuser!
 - What pleases God: the love Jesus demonstrated by taking our wrath
 - **Jesus took our punishment to become our “guilt offering”**
 - back to the sacrificial system of the OT
 - forgiveness has always required the shedding of blood
 - b/c the wages of sin is death – if you sin, death is the result.
 - So the Israelites offered animals to God in their place
 - Those animals never really sufficed...
 - looked forward to the coming of the one, perfect sacrifice

On Good Friday almost 2000 years ago, out of love for us, Jesus chose to be despised by men and punished by God.

And the reason He did that, look at verse 11... read

Jesus was despised and punished... so that we could be saved

- The "He" of this verse is Jesus
- Jesus will look back at His life – all the pain & suffering – and will feel nothing but satisfaction! No regrets! Pleased!
- Why? because it brought about "justification"
 - o = to be declared righteous by God
 - o = to be forgiven; to be right with God
 - o means you will never be punished by God for your sins
- Jesus made justification possible by "bearing our iniquities"
 - o took our sin and our punishment in our place so we could be forgiven.

On Good Friday, Jesus was despised by men and punished by God so that we could be justified – so that we could be forgiven

But notice, justification is for the "many," not for "all"

- In v6 – Isaiah told us that Jesus would die for the sins of "all" people
- But it is only the "many" who are justified
- John makes it clear in the most famous verse in the Bible
 - o John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."
 - o Justification, forgiveness, eternal life with God – it's an absolutely free gift. You don't have to work for it, you don't have to earn it...
 - o But you do have to receive it in faith.
 - You have to believe that Jesus really did...

Let's remember the death of Jesus and give thanks by taking Communion...

- **take the next few minutes to reflect on the death of Jesus**
 - o think about what He suffered that day for you
 - rejection, humiliation, torture, crucifixion
 - that was the price of our sins – a price He willingly paid
 - o take this time to thank Him
- Passages on overhead to help you meditate on the sacrifice of the Son