**Sermon on Isaiah 53:1-10**

**Title: "The Suffering Servant: God's Plan of Redemption"**

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 53:1-10

“Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? 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. He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces, he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds, we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment, he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the Lord’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.”

**INTRODUCTION**

This prophecy by Isaiah tells us centuries before the birth of Christ the suffering and sacrifice that will be made by the coming Messiah. In my opinion I feel chapter 53 is on of the most profound revelation to us about the work of salvation. So much so that Martin Luther has been documented as saying, every Christian should memorize this chapter. Also what Isaiah is doing in this chapter is reenforcing the the divine inspiration of the bible for us. The only way Isaiah could have spoken about these events of the coming Messiah is if they were told to him by God. This chapter that we are about to study is so impactful to the truthfulness of Jesus Christ and our salvation that in many synogogues it is forbidden to be read.

I was listening to John MacAuthur preach this and he stated something very interesting in his sermon. Reading through this prophecy by Isaiah the verb usage is past-tense. Which brought up a pretty revealing and almost awe inspiring realization. When most people read this they all assume this prophecy has to do with Jesus himself, but reading the prophecy with the use of all the past-tense verbs it is clearly a prophecy about someone who was looking back on the cross. Looking back and telling the story of Jesus and the sacrifice He made for us. As I walk us all through this please listen to the words of each verse and look into this prophecy with an open mind to what it really tells us all.

**LETS BEGIN**

**REJECTION**

Isaiah 53:1-3,

**”Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?**

This first verse tells us that even through all the miracles, the messages that were told and all that was revealed we still refused to believe in Christ as the Messiah that was promised to us from God. The main reason for this we read in the next verse.

**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.**

Jesus came to us not as a king or royalty, not as someone born into a family with high social status or that was part of the “in crowd”. Jesus was born of a virgin woman and a carpenter father. Jesus wasn’t someone who when He walked into the room he took over or had the appearance of someone like Fabio. Jesus came into this world humble and rich in spirit. He wasn’t what was expected by the Pharisee’s that were sure the Messiah would be coming into the world as a warrior to free them from the Romans. Reading the Gospels we all know that isn’t what Jesus was here for at all. Jesus came to us sinless and in humility and truth to guide us back to Him. John 4:24 gives us this explanation:

“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

**He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces, he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.”**

Isaiah spoke to our hearts in this verse. He made it clear that we would not only reject Christ, but despised Him as well. Matthew 27:21-22 we read the question that Pontius Pilot asked the religious leaders and the crowd,

**"Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They said, 'Barabbas!' Pilate said to them, 'What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said to him, 'Let Him be crucified!'"**

Jesus in the eyes of the religious leaders at the time was so far from what they thought the Messiah was supposed to be that they even chose a murderer over the Messiah!

[QUESTION FOR THE CONGREGATION]

You have to ask yourself. Looking back on your life have you found that decisions you made in blind anger were worth the consequences that were paid?

**SACRIFICE**

Now this is where we get into the “meat and potatoes” of Isaiah’s prophecy. The coming Messiah’s sacrifice for us. This is so important I am going to read verse’s 4-6 again for you all:

**“Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”**

Romans 3:23 reminds us that we all deserve death in God’s eyes for our sins and we will ALWAYS fall short of God’s glory. But verses 4 thru 6 speak to us about how the Messiah took that penalty for us. And this is what Isaiah was trying to drive home to the Israelite people of his time.

The Pharisee’s at that time saw Jesus not as the Messiah, but as a liar, blasphemer, even called Him Satan. They believed Jesus was lying so fervently that they actually believed God was working through them to punish Jesus as a blasphemer! Can’t you just feel how lost we all are? How oblivious to the true nature of God we are? All of this couldn’t be further from the truth as we all know. God sent Jesus to us to be that sacrifical lamb. To be the one to take on the sins that we were guilty of so that we would finally be able to be redeemed and come back to our Father.

**VICTORY**

This brings us to the last few verses that we are going to speak about today. Lets read verse 10 once more;

10 But the LORD was pleased To crush Him, putting [Him] to grief; If He would render Himself [as] a guilt offering, He will see [His] offspring, He will prolong [His] days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand.

This is a hard passage to read, but let me tell you it’s not telling us that God was dancing for joy that His only Son was being crucified. No that isn’t the case at all. God knew that through the suffering that Christ endured for us His ultimate plan for our salvation was fulfilled. What seemed to many as Jesus’ defeat was in actuality the greatest victory for mankind.

**CONCLUSION**

Isaiah 53:1-10 gives us a clear picture of God’s plan for redemption through the Suffering Servant. Jesus, the promised Messiah, was rejected, He suffered, and He sacrificed His life for our sins. Yet, His suffering was not in vain. Through His sacrifice, He brings healing, forgiveness, and peace to all who believe.

Let us respond by embracing the grace and healing that the Suffering Servant offers. May we recognize that His suffering was for us, and may we live in the freedom and hope that His victory brings.

**INVITATION**

We are called to live in faith, to walk in the light of God’s love, and to be baptized in His name. Baptism is a sacred rite of initiation, a beautiful declaration of your commitment to Christ, and a powerful symbol of new life through His grace.Today, we invite you to come forward and make this life-changing decision. As you enter the waters of baptism, you are embraced by the community of believers and marked with the Holy Spirit. It is a moment to renew your heart and walk boldly in faith, knowing you are forever cherished by God. If you feel called to take this step, we welcome you to join us in this sacred celebration. Come as you are, and let us celebrate this journey of faith together.

**LETS PRAY**

Father, we thank You for the sacrifice of Your Son, who bore our sins on the cross. Help us to grasp the depth of His love and to live in the victory He won for us. Give us hearts of gratitude, and help us to share this message of hope and redemption with the world. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Works Cited

CalvaryDothan. 2018. “The Suffering Servant Isaiah 53 Guest Speaker John MacArthur.” YouTube. September 24, 2018. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6bZB7BFvqV8.

Macarthur, John, and Crossway Books. 2016. *The MacArthur Study Bible : English Standard Version.* Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway.