

Good Friday Service  
Isaiah 53  
“He Bore Our Sorrows”

Introduction

Isaiah 53

Who has believed what we have heard?  
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?  
He grew up before Him like a young plant and like a root out of dry ground.  
He didn't have an impressive form or majesty that we should look at Him.  
no appearance that we should desire Him.  
He was despised and rejected by men.  
a man of suffering who knew what sickness was.  
He was like someone people turned away from:  
He was despised, and we didn't value him.

Yet He himself bore our sicknesses, and he carried our pains:  
but we in turn regarded Him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.  
But He was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities:  
punishment for our peace was on Him, and we are healed by his wounds.  
We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way;  
and the Lord has punished Him for the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth.  
Like a lamb led to the slaughter and like a sheep silent before her shearers.  
He did not open his mouth.  
He was taken away because of oppression and judgment,  
and who considered His fate?  
For He was cut off from the land of the living:  
He was struck because of my people's rebellion.  
He was assigned a grave with the wicked, but He was with a rich man at his death.  
because He had done no violence and had not spoken deceitfully.

Yet the Lord was pleased to crush Him severely.  
When you make Him a guilt offering, He will see His seed. He will prolong His days,  
and by His hand, the Lord's pleasure will be accomplished.  
After His anguish, He will see light and be satisfied.  
By His knowledge, My righteous servant will justify many,  
and He will carry their iniquities.  
Therefore I will give Him the many as a portion, and He will receive the mighty as  
spoils, because He willingly submitted to death, and was counted among the rebels;  
yet He bore the sin of many and interceded for the rebels.

While it is very tempting for me to do a detailed expository study of the entire passage for all its rich treasures, for the purpose of tonight's message, I will refrain from taking it on, layer by layer, and will instead focus upon three specific things that Christ has taken upon Himself that we no longer have to bear. I felt that it would be appropriate for us to have a time of reflection and praise to thank Him for the burdens that we no longer have to carry thanks to the mighty cross. When I was for so many years in the

Baptist church, there was a hymn that we sang quite often called “*Jesus Paid it All*”, and I find myself often hearing that old song in my head when I read from *Isaiah 53*:

*I hear The Savior say, Thy strength indeed is small  
Child of weakness watch and pray,  
Find in Me, thine all in all  
Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe.  
Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.*

*Jesus Paid it All*  
Elvina M. Hall circa 1865

So, tonight as we enter into a time of worship and communion. Let us praise The Savior for the things that He took upon Himself, because we were powerless to do so. As Isaiah has so eloquently told us, some 700 years before it actually happened, Christ bore our burdens upon Calvary's Cross and in His strength He overcame our every weakness. And for this, we should never cease to praise Him. On the mighty cross, He bore our *Sin*, He bore our *Suffering*, and He Bore our *Sickness*. Please allow me to explain.

### **He Bore Our Sin**

**Therefore I will give Him the many as a portion, and He will receive the mighty as spoil, because He willingly submitted to death, and was counted among the rebels; yet He bore the sin of many and interceded for the rebels.** **Isaiah 53:12**

The Scriptures tell us that, upon the cross, Christ took our sins upon Himself. Everything that this world has ever done in rebellion to God was heaped upon Him at Calvary. I can only imagine the weight of such a burden. And it should pain each of us to know that **our** sins were piled upon Him with all the rest. And yet, He came to identify with us, and He was despised, and rejected, and “counted among the rebels”, as Isaiah has so eloquently said.

Jesus, The Son of God, came to dwell among us. He lived a life that was free from sin, and yet, was executed as a criminal. The crimes that He was sentenced for, however, were mine... and yours. But rather than defend His honor and integrity at His trial, **“He opened not His mouth” (Isaiah 53:7)**. He chose to accept the burden of our guilt, even though He Himself was blameless. And that is why we should never cease to praise Him, for He bore in Himself, the burden of our sin.

**He made the One Who did not sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.** **2 Corinthians 5:21**

### **He Bore Our Suffering**

**But He was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on Him, and we are healed by His wounds. We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and The LORD has punished Him for the iniquity of us all.** **Isaiah 53: 5-6**

The book of *Romans* tells us quite a few things in regards to the Christian faith, but for me, there are two glaring statements that stand alone, when it comes to our conviction:

1. **For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.** **Romans 3:23**
- And
2. **For the wages of sin is death...** **Romans 6:23a**

These verses tell me two things; first, I am a sinner. I am included in the “all have sinned” part. And second, I deserve to die for my sin. That, my friends, is a sobering reality. It forces me to take a hard look at the sentence I have earned. *The Bible* is also explicitly clear upon the fact that one day, I will stand face to face with a Holy and Righteous God, Who will judge me according to my own deeds. And if that is the case, I do not stand a chance!

Two of the greatest words in *The Bible* can be found in the second chapter of *Ephesians*, and the words are simply, ***“But God...” (Ephesians 2:4)***. You see, on the day of my judgment, I would not, as they say, “*have a leg to stand on*”. Death and hell would be my only legitimate options, *BUT GOD* sent His only Son to take the suffering that I had earned upon Himself. He bore our suffering. All the pain and death that He endured upon that cross... was meant for me, but He bore it in my place. And in your place, for truth be told, you are just as sinful as I am. But Jesus paid it all! We can now stand in God's presence without fear of the wages of sin, because Christ has paid in full.

When Jesus cried out, “*it is finished*” upon the cross, the word He used in the Greek was “*tetelestai*”. It was a word that was often stamped upon a bill for merchandise once it had completely paid for. The word actually means, “*Paid in full.*” Those who place their faith in Him no longer have to fear the wages of sin, for they were fully satisfied (propitiated) upon the cross. He bore our suffering. And that is why we praise Him today!

### **He Bore Our Sickness**

***Yet He Himself bore our sickness, and He carried our pains; but we in turn regarded Him as stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.*** **Isaiah 53:4**

Believe it or not, you were born into a genetically inherited disease. Ever since man's fall in the Garden of Eden, this disease has been passed down from generation to generation, and despite all the efforts of so-called civilized society, it has proven itself to be incurable as far as man is concerned. The disease, if left untreated, is always fatal. And yet so many, to their own demise, ignore its symptoms until it is too late. What is this sickness that is so devastating to the human condition? It is called “self-love”, and it was transmitted to us by Satan Himself. Listen to the source of the disease in his own words, also found in the book of Isaiah:

***You said to yourself, “I will ascend to the heavens, I will set up my throne above the stars of God. I will sit on the mount of the god's assembly, in the remotest parts of the North. I will ascend above the highest clouds; I will make myself like The Most High.”*** **Isaiah 14:13-14**

This disease also carries with it the intense burden of a guilty mind and conscience, for deep down all of humanity know that it is the disease of self-love that has separated us from a Holy God. And in the dark watches of the night, the dread that accompanies this reality cannot be denied. Oh, there are many distractions to keep us occupied in our waking moments. But in spite of all our self-indulgences, we are left with an emptiness, a longing, and worst of all, a sense of impending doom.

Many reach out to those in the psychiatric field of science to seek relief from these feelings. The so-called experts will tell us that we need to “learn to forgive ourselves” and “how to love ourselves”. The first is far above our pay grade, and the second is what got us into this depression in the first place. But here is the good news. **There is a cure.** Not an earthly cure, mind you, but a heavenly one. His Name is Christ Jesus, and He bore this sickness at Calvary, and He, and only He, can free us from its curse. Jesus died, so that you could be dead to self and alive in Christ. Your priority is no longer your own self-serving lust, but rather, your very nature is transformed so that you may live to please God, rather than yourself.

And here is the best part. To be free of the disease of self-love is to have lasting peace and joy. The Scriptures call this **the peace that passes all understanding**. And it cannot be obtained with any self-help therapy or prescription. Jesus is the cure! He bore our sickness on Calvary's cross, so that we could be free.

These are but three of the burdens that Christ carried up the hill at Calvary, so that you could lay them down forever. He bore your sin, your suffering, and your sickness. He did this so that you could be restored to fellowship with The God Who created you. And that is why we praise His Name, and when He returns to take us home to be with Him forever, we will worship Him throughout all eternity. And THAT is why they call this day "**Good Friday**". As the psalmist so eloquently said:

***This is the day The LORD has made: let's rejoice and be glad in it!***      ***Psalm 118:24***

**TRUTH!!!**