

## “God Justifies” - Isaiah 53:1-12

Ask - “Have you ever suffered on someone else’s behalf? Share your story.”

Background - The lesson today focuses on yet another of the “servant songs” found in the book of Isaiah (these were introduced last week). This passage is the most well known of these songs, and is often referred to as the “Suffering Servant”. It prophetically points to Jesus Christ.

“Despised” - Isaiah 53:1-3

(v1-2) Who will believe in this coming Messiah that is being prophesied about here? Why would his form and appearance lead many to doubt? Explain.

(v3) How would He be treated by the world? How does Christ’s familiarity with human suffering give comfort to believers?

ISAIAH DESCRIBED THE COMING MESSIAH AS A SUFFERING SERVANT WHO WOULD BE REJECTED BY THOSE HE’D COME TO SAVE.

“Crucified” - Isaiah 53:4-6

(v4) Rather than suffering His own pain, whose would He bear? How then would our assumptions about Him be mistaken?

(v5) What specific event does this verse point to? Why would Jesus die on the cross and what would His death accomplish for man? Discuss.

(v6) What portion of humanity is guilty of sin? How much sin would Christ carry while on the cross? What amount of sin would be forgiven?

JESUS CARRIED THE WEIGHT OF MAN’S SIN - NOT HIS OWN - AND DIED ON THE CROSS TO REDEEM GUILTY SINNERS FROM ALL OF IT.

“Criminalized” - Isaiah 53:7-9

(v7-8) How would Jesus act during His trials, sentencing, and execution? How would Jesus’ own generation perceive His death?

(v9) Where would Jesus have been buried if there had been no intervention? Where would He actually be buried? Why the upgrade?

JESUS MOSTLY REMAINED CALM AND SILENT DURING HIS TRIALS AND SENTENCING. THOUGH CONSIDERED A CRIMINAL, HE WAS BURIED IN A RICH MAN’S TOMB.

“Exalted” - Isaiah 53:10-12

(v10-11) How would God the Father feel about the death of His Son? Why would God permit this to happen, pouring out His full wrath and judgment on Christ? What is justification?

(v12) After the crucifixion, how would God reward His Son? Why would Christ be deserving of such great recognition and honor?

JESUS ENDURED THE FULL PUNISHMENT OF MAN'S SIN, COMPLETELY SATISFIED GOD'S WRATH, AND WAS RAISED UP TO BECOME THE KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Application - Isaiah lived some 700 years before the birth of Christ. Nevertheless, his prophecies of the coming Messiah are amazingly detailed and accurate. The Suffering Servant passage describes Jesus as one who bore our sorrows, sickness, and pain. More importantly, He bore our sin and died as our ransom to redeem us. His death was ordained by God the Father so that sinners might be saved! How does knowing these things make you feel?