

“The Satisfied Servant”

April 2, 2017

Isaiah 53:10-12

I. Introduction

Last week, as we looked at [Isaiah 52:13-53:9](#), we considered the “Suffering Servant;”—as verse 3 put it: “**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 him not.**” As we read and then reread these verses of Isaiah, we see that they are accurate to the smallest detail including Jesus’ appearance, His rejection, the manner of His death, His being pierced, and His burial. This is more than a coincidence; there is no way an impostor could fulfill all of these prophecies. Many of the things were circumstances beyond the control of an impostor, e.g. being pierced and being buried with the rich. Only one person fulfilled every minute’ detail—Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

We saw that [Isaiah 52:12-53:12](#) is a poem made up of 5 stanzas of 3 verses each. Last Sunday we looked at the first 4 of these stanzas. Stanza 1 was a preview that described both triumph and suffering. Stanza 2 described the rejected Servant. Stanza 3 described the heart of the Gospel message: the Servant carried our sins. And stanza 4 gave the results of carrying our sin: the Servant died. But the Gospel story doesn’t end there. Isaiah then explained the Cross and the suffering Servant from God’s point of view. Even though Jesus was crucified by the hands of men, His death was determined beforehand by God—[1 Peter 1:20](#) says, “**He, i.e. Jesus Christ, was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.**” Jesus wasn’t a martyr; His death wasn’t an accident—here in Isaiah 53 it was prophesied 700 years earlier. Jesus Christ was God’s sacrifice for the sins of the world—as [Revelation 5:9](#) puts it, “**And they sang a new song: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.’”**

700 years before Jesus Christ stanza 5, our Scripture for today, predicted the final glory and triumph of the Messiah: the “Satisfied Servant.” This last stanza begins with “**the LORD's will.**”

II. Stanza 5: the Satisfied Servant

A. The LORD's Will In the second half of [2 Peter 3:9](#), we read that God “**is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.**” The opening words of [John 3:16](#) are: “**For God so loved the world.**” God’s will is that no one perish, but God is also a God of justice and, as [Hebrews 9:22](#) says, “**In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.**” When Isaiah wrote, “**It was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,**” it wasn’t because the LORD delighted in suffering or because Jesus was guilty or had displeased the Father; rather, as [Romans 5:8](#) says, “**But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:**

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Or as [1 Peter 3:18](#) says, “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.” The will of the Lord was for Christ to suffer and die so that others could have eternal life.

B. The Servant’s Rewards The second half of Isaiah 53:10 gives the results or rewards caused by the Servant doing the Father’s will—the Servant’s rewards:

1. “**He will see his offspring.**” The first result of the doing the Father’s will is that “**He will see his offspring.**” To die childless was a grief and shame to the Jews, but because of His death and resurrection, Jesus gave birth to a spiritual family. John wrote about this family in [Revelation 7:9](#): “**After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.**”

2. **Second, “He will ... prolong his days.”** The sacrificed Lamb of God did not remain dead, He was resurrected to live forever—His days are prolonged. He triumphed over every enemy and claimed the spoils of victory—[turn to Ephesians 1:18-23](#). We don’t worship a dead Christ, we worship a living One. He not only died, He rose again from the grave in victory 3 days later. Then as [Philippians 2:9-11](#) says, “**God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**”

C. The Satisfied Servant After doing the will of the Father and seeing the rewards, Isaiah wrote in [verse 11](#), “**He will see the light of life and be satisfied,**” the results of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross led to the 3rd section of this stanza: “the Satisfied Servant.” [Hebrews 12:2](#) says, “**Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**” God the Father didn’t enjoy seeing His beloved Son suffer and die on the cross; Jesus Himself didn’t enjoy the cross and its shame, but looking beyond all that, He had joy because He knew the results that would follow: many would come to Him and find peace and rest for all eternity. In [Luke 15:7](#) Jesus said that there is joy in heaven over one sinner that repents. Think of the joy, the satisfaction of Christ today over the millions who have repented.

Isaiah went on to say that the Servant knew exactly what was needed to be done to solve the sin problem. The Law was satisfied by the death of the Lamb of God and through this sacrifice “**my righteous servant will justify many.**” [Turn to Romans 4:4-8](#). To justify means “*to declare righteous.*” Jesus took our sins so that we might receive the gift of righteousness—[2 Corinthians 5:21](#) says, “**God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**”

Justification means God declares sinners righteous in Christ and, as we read in Romans 4, never again keeps a record of their sins.

D. The Summary Finally, everything is summed up in [Isaiah 53:12](#). This is the summary: “Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.” God says that He will give the Servant the spoils of victory because He was treated like one of the sinners or rebels when He was not and thus could bear their punishment and make intercession for them. Jesus made intercession for sinners at the cross—in [Luke 23:34](#) He said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And He continues today in heaven—[Hebrews 7:24-25](#) says, “Because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.”

III. Conclusion

The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God didn't just happen, it was God's plan—turn to [Acts 2:22-24, 32-33](#). God has a plan to save sinners—Paul wrote in [Romans 10:13](#): “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Peter said in [Acts 4:12](#), “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” Finally, Jesus said in [John 14:6](#), “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” The Bible leaves no wiggle room, there is only one way to be saved from an eternity in hell—a person must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, i.e. as [Romans 10:9](#) says, Jesus must be your Lord and Savior. So the lifesaving question is: Is He?

If you have accepted the gift of eternal life, the story has just begun. Paul wrote in [Philippians 2:5-8](#) (NAS), “Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.” We, too, are called to live the Servant's life—as [1 Peter 2:21](#) says, we need to “follow in His steps.” As a child of God, our major concern should be—must be—to do the will of the Father. As we prayed this morning in the Lord's Prayer: “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” The lordship of Jesus Christ means that we put His will above everything else. But be aware, just like in the lives of Jesus, Paul, Peter, and many other Christians, walking in the will of God doesn't mean there will not be hard times, difficult times, and even failure. So as [Hebrews 12:1](#) says, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, i.e. examples, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” And as [Philippians 3:14](#) says, Let us “press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me us heavenward in Christ Jesus.” But we

don't have to do this in our own strength, **Philippians 4:13** says, **"I can do everything through him who gives me strength."**