

w/b 8th November 2015 Study questions/ life application

MAN OF SORROWS Isaiah 53 & Philippians 2: 5-11

ISAIAH 53 (NIV)

¹ *Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?*

² *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.*

³ *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.*

⁴ *Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.*

⁵ *But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.*

⁶ *We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

⁷ *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 her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.*

⁸ *By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken.*

⁹ *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.*

¹⁰ *Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.*

¹¹ *After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light [of life] and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.*

¹² *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.*

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11 (NIV)

⁵ *Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:*

⁶ *Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped;*

⁷ *but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*

⁸ *And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross!*

⁹ *Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,*

¹⁰ *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*

¹¹ *and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

INTRO

We have so many pictures of Christ - a beautiful baby, a skilful carpenter, an amazing teacher, a loving and gentle healer, a miracle worker, demon destroyer, and up-turner of tables. Kind, forgiving, good, and compassionate, yet also bold, fierce, and a Pharisee's worst nightmare.

One of the clearest of all pictures is that of a sorrowing Saviour, suffering for us as he was crucified. The image burns deep. It is a cutting, cold and callous reminder of our sin paid for in full, refreshing our appreciation by giving us a perspective from the foot of the Cross. (*Hillsong Isaiah study guide*)

LAUNCH

- When was the last time you felt physical pain?
- Was your response heroic or the reverse?

DISCOVERY

- What do these passages tell us about the character of Jesus?
- What does the Isaiah passage tell us about the way in which the suffering servant will be rewarded? (v10-12)
Assuming this is about Christ, what does he mean in saying these things?

UNDERSTANDING

- What aspects of Jesus's life or ministry mean the most to you personally or emotionally? (It does not need to be related to this passage)
- If someone asked you to explain how Isaiah 53 related to them personally, how would you answer in easy to understand language?
- How does Jesus' suffering help believers who are suffering themselves?
- How do these passages enhance your security and confidence in God?
- Philippians 2:5 encourages us to have the same attitude as Christ. What exactly is that attitude and how should it come across in our daily lives?
- Both passages describe a supreme act of sacrificial service. What sort of acts of sacrificial service are we being called to today?

APPLICATION

- What are the main ways in which sheep go astray nowadays?
- If you were tempted to stray what path would you choose?
- Pray for those you know who are astray that they will be given a path back to Christ

(Thanks to IVP & Hillsong study guides for intro & some of the questions)