

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 - The Suffering Servant, Our Savior

Big Idea: Through Jesus, the suffering servant, God has provided the solution for our spiritual estrangement.

The Abstract of the Servant's Work

[13] Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. [14] As many were astonished at you—his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—[15] so shall he sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths because of him, for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.

The Rejected Servant

Isaiah 53:1–3

[1] Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? [2] For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.

[3] He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. (ESV)

The Servant's Work

Isaiah 53:4–6

[4] Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

[5] But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

John Oswalt: *"The effect in the Servant is the measure of how seriously God takes our rebellion and crookedness. We typically wish to make light of our 'shortcomings,' to explain away our 'mistakes.' But God will have none of it. The refusal of humanity to bow to the Creator's rule, and our insistence on drawing our own moral codes that pander to our lusts, are not shortcomings or mistakes. They are the stuff of death and corruption, and unless someone can be found to stand in our places, they will see us impaled on the swords of our own making and broken on the racks of our own design. But someone has been found. Someone has take on himself the results of our rebelliousness, and we have been given the keys of the kingdom."*

[6] All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

The Servant's Innocence

Isaiah 53:7–9

[7] He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. [8] By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? [9] And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. (ESV)

The Servant's Victory

Isaiah 53:10

[10] Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. (ESV)

Ray Orlund **says**, *"It's the miracle and scandal that God justifies ungodly people through the finished work of Christ on the cross. God accepts unacceptable people, God honors shameful people, God treats fools and harlots with royal dignity as Jesus steps into our place at the cross and bears our real moral guilt far away upon himself. That's how God our judge becomes God our justifier."*