



Sunday, October 7, 2018

Pastor Keith Sovo

Intro to Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Isaiah 53 is one of the most beloved passages for Christians. In that passage, we learn not only the extent of our sin and the punishment we deserve for it, but we learn about the love of God and the success that Jesus achieved on our behalf. However, one thing is abundantly clear: He didn't succeed in a way that we would have thought of, nor would we have chosen. But, because His ways are higher than our ways, God did exactly what was necessary for us to be saved—even if His Own Son would suffer greatly in the process.

This has tremendous implications for how we think about our suffering. If Jesus' suffering achieved such a great victory, we can be confident that our suffering is not meaningless either. We may not be able to see in the moment the impact that our suffering is having in drawing us closer to God, but that is why we must walk by faith and not by sight.

Context

This passage is the last of what is called the "Servant Songs" in the book of Isaiah. Beginning in chapter 40, God has been explaining to the people of Israel that He is going to bring about their salvation. In the process, He introduces this mysterious figure, "the Servant." For many chapters it is unclear who exactly this "Servant" might be, but by the time we get to Isaiah 53, it is clear that the "Servant" is God Himself. He is described in the same language used to describe God earlier in the book (chapter 6), except much more is said about His suffering and humiliation. We now know that the Servant is none other than Jesus Himself, God-in-the-flesh who secured our salvation through His suffering and death on the cross.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12

“He Suffered for Us”

- I. The Successful Servant (52:13-15)

- II. His Unfathomable Success (53:1-3)

- III. Success through Suffering (53:4-6)

- IV. Characterized by Humility (53:7-9)

- V. Resulting in Victory (53:10-12)

Discuss

- 1) What do you think people in your life would say their biggest problem is?
- 2) Why is it so easy for us, even as Christians, to view our suffering as meaningless?
- 3) How does knowing the extent of Jesus' suffering change the way you think about sin?
- 4) How does knowing the outcome of Jesus' suffering impact the way you view your own suffering?
- 5) How can you express your gratitude to God this week for what He has done for you in Christ?