

Bible Readings

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

The Suffering and Glory of the Servant

¹³ See, my servant will act wisely;

he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.

¹⁴ Just as there were many who were appalled at him—

his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being
and his form marred beyond human likeness—

¹⁵ so he will sprinkle many nations,

and kings will shut their mouths because of him.

For what they were not told, they will see,

and what they have not heard, they will understand.

53 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 mankind,

a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces

he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

⁴ Surely, he took up our pain

and bore our suffering,

yet we considered him punished by God,

stricken 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 on him,

and by his wounds we are healed.

⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray,

each of us has turned to our 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 its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away.
Yet who of his generation protested?
For he was cut off from the land of the living;
for the transgression of my people he was punished.

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 an offering for sin,
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,
and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

¹¹ After he has suffered,
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.

John 18:1-14

Jesus Arrested

18 When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it.

² Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. ³ So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

⁴ Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?"

⁵ "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.

"I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) ⁶ When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.

⁷ Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?"

"Jesus of Nazareth," they said.

⁸ Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go." ⁹ This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me."

¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)

¹¹ Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"

¹² Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him ¹³ and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴ Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it would be good if one man died for the people.

Jesus Sentenced to Be Crucified

John 19:1-30

19 Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. **2** The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe **3** and went up to him again and again, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And they slapped him in the face.

4 Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him." **5** When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"

6 As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!"

But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him."

7 The Jewish leaders insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God."

8 When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, **9** and he went back inside the palace. "Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. **10** "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?"

11 Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore, the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

12 From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar."

¹³ When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). ¹⁴ It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon.

"Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews.

¹⁵ But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!"

"Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked.

"We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered.

¹⁶ Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

The Crucifixion of Jesus

So, the soldiers took charge of Jesus. ¹⁷ Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). ¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

¹⁹ Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. ²¹ The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews."

²² Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

²³ When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

²⁴ "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it."

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said,

"They divided my clothes among them
and cast lots for my garment."

So, this is what the soldiers did.

²⁵ Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "**Woman, here is your son,**" ²⁷ and to the disciple, "**Here is your mother.**" From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

The Death of Jesus

²⁸ Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "**I am thirsty.**" ²⁹ A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. ³⁰ When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "**It is finished.**" With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Sermon - The Suffering and Glory of the Servant 02-Apr-21 (Good Friday)

Intro/The Problem

We all have a problem

As Colin Buchannan would sing:

We all like sheep have gone astray

Baa baa doo baa baa

Each of us has turned his own way

Baa baa doo baa baa

The **song** kinda **trivializes** the **problem** we all have

The **problem** is **described** in our **OT** reading **Isaiah 53:6a**

[PowerPoint 1-Isaiah 53:6]

The Problem

"We all, like sheep, have gone astray (lost),

each of us has turned to his own way,



We're all like lost sheep, we've gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way

Because of **Adam and Eve's disobedience** in the Garden of Eden

We are all **born lost from God** - and because of our **inherited sinful nature** - we often go our own way - rather than God's way.

A bit like Frank Sinatra - we say "I did it my way!"

In the last 100 years or so...

- We've had **two major wars**
- **Genocide** in **several countries** - where **millions of people** have been killed
- There have been **countries invading each other**
- **Mass shootings** - **rioting** - **lootings**
- **Sexual abuse** exposed in **churches, schools and other organisations & so on**

We don't seem to have learnt anything from the **events of the last 100 years**
Alarmingly - we now have a **trend in our society** - where **people have their own version of the truth**

And further - when we have a **differing opinion to someone else** - it now turns to **hatred**

(pause)

All these things have happened because **people have made themselves King of their life rather than** having **God as King and Lord of their life**

Thankfully - **God knew this would happen**

And **He sent Jesus** - His Beloved Son - on a **rescue mission**

God's solution to our problem is **very surprising**

Jesus the rescuer comes and has to die for the people **He's going to rescue**

Normally the **hero lives** - in most **Disney movies**

But this is not a Disney Movie!

Jesus comes like a **Good Shepherd** looking for lost sheep - and saves people lost from God

He's **willing** to do the **Father's will** and lay down His life for His Sheep

He did just that on that very 1st **Good Friday** - 2000 or so years ago!

So, on that first Good Friday

Jesus suffered

And

Jesus was glorified

Jesus' Suffering

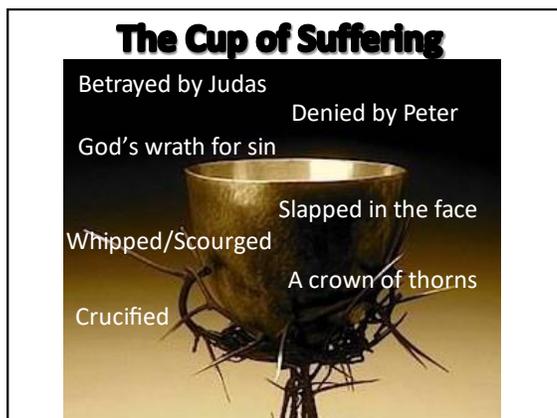
What I would like to do then is look at

1. How Jesus suffered
2. And then why Jesus suffered.

And then we'll look at how Jesus was glorified.

So first, let's look at **Jesus' suffering**...

[PowerPoint 2-Suffering]



[Please turn to John 18]

The Betrayal and Arrest (John 18:1-14)

- V2 - Jesus is **betrayed** by one of his close disciples - **Judas** - for 30 pieces of silver (Matthew 26:15)
- Have you ever been betrayed - it's **awful** - you think someone is your friend and they **stab you in the back?**
- It **feels terrible** doesn't it?

- In v3 - **Judas** and some **soldiers** and **officials** came to **arrest Jesus**
- They ask for **Jesus of Nazareth**
- Look how **Jesus responded**
- V5 and v6 - He literally replies **I AM**.
- **The phrase "I AM"** comes from back in the OT in Exodus 3:13-14 - where God tells Moses - His Name - ¹³ Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" ¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"
- So here - when Jesus says **I AM** - He's claiming **He is Divine - He is God**
- He's **done** this throughout John's Gospel - that's what's **got Him into trouble** - He's said...
 - I am the **Bread** of Life (John 6:35); **Light** of the World (John 8:12);
The **Gate/Door** (John 10:9); **The Good Shepherd** (John 10:11); The

Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25-26); The *Way, the Truth and the Life* (John 14:6); The *Vine* (John 15:5)

- When Jesus said I AM to the people arresting Him - they **drew back** and **fell to the ground** - because of His Divine Presence
 - Notice Jesus doesn't run away
 - **He went freely** - so that His disciples are not arrested - and **keeps the prophecy** He made in John 6:39 - "**I have not lost one the Father gave Me**"
 - Even when Peter tried to resist the arrest with a sword - and **cut off a man's ear!**
 - **Jesus says NO!** That's not my way - Jesus came to bring peace
 - And besides God has **given Jesus a job** to do
 - See V11 - **Jesus says He must drink the cup the Father has given him**
 - What is this cup - that Jesus must drink?
 - It's like a **cup of suffering** - like a cup of bad medicine - but it **ultimately does us good!**
 - **He must suffer** - He must **experience God's wrath for Sin**
 - So that we can go free from the punishment for our sins
 - Perhaps it's **worth pausing for a moment**
 - And reflecting that **Jesus suffered because of our sins**
 - Our sins were put on Him - and He willingly died for them
- (pause)

- Would we lay down our lives for others? Yes/No/Maybe
- **The Apostle Peter thought He could**
- Earlier in John 13:37 - Peter said - **Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you**

The Denial (18:15-18, 25-27)

- But as we see here in John 18:17, 25 and 27
- Peter **denied** knowing Jesus 3 times
- He didn't mean to -
- At Jesus' arrest - Peter was **pretty macho** - pulling out his sword
- But not so now
- As Jesus said to his disciples earlier in the garden - when they couldn't stay awake and pray with Him - **the spirit is willing and the flesh is weak** (Matt 26:41)
- How do you think Peter felt - Luke tells us (Luke 22:62) - Peter **wept bitterly**
- Before we give Peter a hard time - **do we deny Jesus?**
- Perhaps our denial is a **bit more subtle** - like - we just don't let on to people that we follow Jesus - that might be a bit embarrassing -
- Perhaps we deny Jesus - in that our worship is a bit half hearted - we **squeeze him into our busy lives** - perhaps even just at Easter or Christmas -

- Perhaps we deny Jesus - because we don't share our faith - like He commands us to
- Shouldn't Jesus' death for our sins - be met with more commitment than that?

(pause)

The Trial (18:19-24, 28-40)

- The **suffering continues at his trial**
- V19 - **When Jesus is questioned about His teaching by the high priest**
- **Jesus says his teaching has been in public (v20) and that the high priest can ask people about Him (v21)**
- **For which Jesus receives a slap in the face**
- Jesus practices what He preaches and **turns the other cheek**
- See V23- **If I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?**
- **After being questioned by the high priest - the Jewish leaders took Jesus to the Palace of the Roman Governor - Pontius Pilate**
- The **Jewish leaders weren't game enough to enter the Palace grounds** - entering **gentile homes** would make them **ceremonially unclean**
- **But - they have no trouble falsely accusing Jesus and wanting Him dead though?**
- Such **hypocrites they are**

- And very tricky
- When in v31 - Pilate tells them, they can judge Jesus by their own Jewish law
- They point out that they can't execute anyone because they are under Roman rule
- This means if Jesus is found guilty - he must die the Roman way - by crucifixion
- A terrible capital punishment - reserved for the worst criminals
- This fulfils a prophecy Jesus made in John 3:14 - Jesus said **He must be lifted up** - just like Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness - in Numbers 21:9 - when people looked at the snake they lived - in the same way anyone who looks at Jesus lifted up on the Cross and believes - will live and have forgiveness and eternal life
- So, Pilate asks Jesus - **are you the King of the Jews?** v33
- V34 - **Jesus wanted to know** if this question was coming from Pilate or from the Jewish leaders - before answering
- If Pilate is asking for himself - then he's asking if Jesus is a political king in opposition to Caesar. Then the answer would be "NO".
- If Pilate is asking on behalf of the High Priest, Caiaphas, - then he's asking - are you the Messiah King of Israel, promised by God in the OT - then the answer would be "YES".

- V35 - Pilate clarifies that it's the Jews who have handed Jesus over to him - so what has Jesus done?
- So, Jesus explained He is a) a different King than anyone expected b) He has a Kingdom alright - but it's not a political one and not just an earthly one - His Kingdom is not of this world!
- V37 - Jesus says He is a King; He was born a King; He is a different type of King, a King of Truth.
- Jesus always speaks the truth - no matter what
- As He says everyone who listens to Him is on the side of the truth
- Today, truth is often based on personal preference or perspective - and not on God's Truth!
- Pilate can see that Jesus is telling the truth - and that there really isn't any valid charge against Jesus
- So, Pilate calls into play - a Jewish custom - that at the time of festivals like Passover, it was a tradition to release a prisoner from jail - whom the people wanted released
- So, Pilate (v39) asked if they want the King of the Jews released
- But they (v40) say - no! release Barabbas - who's a rebel, a murderer and a robber!
- So, Jesus is rejected and despised at the expense of a notorious criminal

- But the **suffering doesn't stop there** as we hit **chapter 19**

The Sentence (19:1-16)

- See v1 - Pilate had Jesus **flogged - scourged**
- **A whip with pieces of bone and metal - a cruel device of torture**
- The **suffering didn't stop at scourging** - they also (v2) **twisted a crown of thorns (show) on his head - and a purple robe - and mocked Him as King (v3) and slapped him in the face**
- How **humiliating** that must have been for the Son of God
- **Then Pilate presented Jesus again to the Jews**
- **They just cried out all the more - Crucify! Crucify! (v6)**
- **And even when Pilate said for them - to take Jesus away and crucify Him, themselves**
- **All they said was he had broken their law - by claiming to be the Son of God (v7) - i.e., blasphemy**
- **By this stage Pilate is getting afraid - if Jesus' really is the Son of God - what am I doing?**
- **So, Pilate reminds Jesus - that Pilate has the power to release him or to kill him**
- **But Jesus reminds Pilate - Pilate only has such power because God allows it**

- **Pilate has a dilemma - v12 - if he releases Jesus - who claims to be a king - then Pilate will be breaking Caesar law**
- **To make matters worse - the **Jewish chief priests say they have no king but Caesar** (v15)**
- **How low can they go - **God is their King!****
- **So, Pilate hands Jesus over to be crucified - v16**

The Crucifixion (19:17-27)

- And there's still more suffering
- **Jesus - despite his condition - had to carry his own cross (with help from Simon of Cyrene - Luke tells us in Luke 23:26)**
- **This was to show how criminals are punished - as a deterrent to would-be criminals.**
- Then Jesus was crucified
- **Crucifixion is a terrible death**
- The victim dies from exhaustion and asphyxiation
- **We've seen how Jesus suffered**
- **But why did He have to suffer?**

There are many reasons why Jesus had to suffer

- a. **The principle of the innocent dying for the guilty - a principle started in the Garden when Adam and Eve received garments of animal skin to cover**

their shame (Gen 3:21) - **an innocent animal's blood was shed to cover Adam and Eve's shame**

- b. Later in Mosaic Law - this **same principle of an animal being sacrificed for sin - was used** - in Leviticus 17:11 - **It is the blood that makes atonement for one's life** - see also Heb 9:22
- c. **Jesus had to suffer** because suffering is part of the sacrifice - and **Jesus is like the sacrificial lamb in the OT** - **John 1:29 describes Jesus as the Lamb of God**
- d. **Jesus' suffering** also showed the devastating nature of sin, the cruelty of humankind in their fallen nature, and the hatred of Satan
- e. **Jesus suffered** because God cannot look upon sin - sin produces God's wrath - which must be satisfied.
- f. **Jesus also suffered** - to fulfil OT prophecy - like our OT reading today
- g. **Jesus also suffered** to fulfil His own prophecies about His death (Luke 9:22; 17:25)
- h. **Finally, Jesus suffered and died** in order to secure salvation for all who believe in Him. - **There is no other name under heaven by which we can be saved** (Acts 4:12)

Jesus Glorified

We're not quite finished though

Jesus' Death (19:28-37)

- **Strangely enough** as we come to Jesus' death
- It's no longer about Jesus' suffering
- But about Jesus being glorified

[PowerPoints 3-Glory]



- What does glorified mean?
 - It means to **make someone worthy of praise** - by bestowing the **highest honour, praise and admiration** - upon them.
- In v30 we have **Jesus' last words** - **It is finished!**
- **"It is finished"** - are words of glory
- This might seem strange to say
- But - **Jesus is glorified and deserves the highest honour and praise** because by saying these words:
 - It means Jesus' earthly mission to take away the punishment for sin had been completely finished.
 - All the prophecies of Jesus in the Old Testament are fulfilled. For example, all the verses of Isaiah 52-53 are fulfilled in Jesus

- **All the OT sacrifices and ceremonies of the priesthood were finished with - because Jesus is the once and for all sacrifice for sin.**
- **His perfect life of obedience on Earth is finished.**
- **The satisfaction of God's justice was finished.**
- **God's wrath was satisfied.**
- **The power of Satan, sin and death (in 3 days-time) was finished.**
- **All this brings glory to the Father who sent Jesus!**

The Burial (19:38-42)

- **There was one more thing that had to be done - see vv38-42**
- **Which again brings glory to Jesus**
- **What do Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus have in common?**
- **They're both followers of Jesus - albeit mostly in secret, until now.**
- **These 2 men bring glory to Jesus - because they bravely come forward and show they are followers and not ashamed!**
- **They take Jesus' body for a proper burial in a tomb**
- In doing so, they fulfil another prophecy from Isaiah 53:9 which says:
The suffering servant will have a grave – and that it would be with the rich (Joseph of Arimathea) in His death.

Response to Good Friday

What should our response be on this Good Friday?

[PowerPoint 4]

- Well - if we haven't already, we need to **make Jesus King of our life** - instead of thinking we are King of ourselves
- We need to **bring glory to God** - in all we do
- **We can be bold** like Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus - and **stand up for Jesus** - **share our faith in Jesus with others** - Easter is a good time to do this
- Remember too that Jesus said - **Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them (Luke 9:26)**
- We need to realize **we were bought at a price (Jesus' life)** – and so we **must honour God with our bodies. [Obedience!]**

Let's pray...

Response to Good Friday

- ***Make Jesus King of your life***
- ***Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31)***
- ***You were bought at a price – therefore honour God with your bodies (1 Corinthians 6:20)***