

## **The Suffering Servant Isaiah 52:13-53:12**

### **I. INTRODUCTION-**

- a. Isaiah 53 is the most quoted Old Testament chapter in the New Testament...you will find parts of this chapter quoted in nine different New Testament books ... including all four of the Gospels.
- b. Though Isaiah wrote these words 700 years before Jesus was born...it contains one of the most detailed descriptions in all of the Bible...of the cross of Jesus Christ.
- c. This morning as we look at Isaiah's picture of the cross...I pray that those who have never received Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord will do so...and I pray that we who have received Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord...will love Him in a greater way...and want to serve Him in a greater way.

### **II. THE MISSION OF THE CROSS- (MANIFESTATION, MANDATE)**

- a. Before Isaiah gave his astounding picture of the cross...he gave assurance that the Suffering Servant...the Lord Jesus Christ...would accomplish the mission of the cross.
- b. *Isaiah 52:13 (NKJV) "Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high."*...the first part of that verse could be translated... *"Behold, my servant will be successful in what He sets out to do."*
- c. What was the mission of the cross?...Jesus said that He came into the world...*"to seek and to save that which was lost"* ...Jesus came into the world to make salvation and forgiveness of sin possible and available for every human being...and He accomplished that mission at the cross....(Tetelesti...)
- d. The cross was not a mistake...blunder...or failure...it was the plan of God.
- e. Isaiah 52:13 contains the proof that Jesus accomplished His mission on the cross

... we can know that Jesus accomplished the mission of the cross...because after Jesus died on the cross...He was raised, exalted and lifted up.

- f. The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...proves that His death on the cross was accepted by God as payment for man's sin...the resurrection of Jesus proves that Jesus accomplished the mission of the cross... *Romans 4:25* “(Jesus) *was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.*”

### III. THE MANIFESTATION OF THE CROSS- (MISSION...MANDATE)

- a. The words of Isaiah in these verses vividly describe the suffering of Jesus on the cross...and pointedly declares the reason for that suffering.
- b. The death of Jesus on the cross was not an easy death...when Jesus died He did not peacefully slip away from this world as we all want to do...the Bible says that Jesus *suffered* and died...and Isaiah vividly describes that suffering.
- c. Isaiah piles word upon word and phrase upon phrase...to describe the suffering and cruelty that Jesus endured as He died on the cross.
- d. Isaiah said that Jesus was...*mutilated, disfigured, despised, rejected, stricken, smitten, afflicted, wounded, beaten, bruised, chastised, oppressed, slaughtered, sacrificed, cut off, distressed, slandered, grieved, and finally killed.*
- e. Because of who He was...because of the mission of the cross...because of the burden He was bearing on the cross...and the sacrifice He was accomplishing ... when He was on the cross Jesus suffered physically, emotionally and spiritually in ways that we cannot even begin to fathom or understand.
- f. Why did Jesus suffer in this way? ...those who put Him on the cross thought Jesus was getting what He deserved...they “*esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.*” (*Isaiah 53:4*)

- g. Those who put Jesus on the cross thought that He was dying for His own sins...but Jesus had done no sin...He had done no violence...no deceit was found in His mouth...Jesus was righteous...He is the only perfect person who will ever live.
- h. Jesus had done nothing to deserve death...let alone the horrible death of the cross... then why did Jesus have to die?
- i. Isaiah wrote...surely He has borne our griefs...He has carried our sorrows...He was wounded for our transgressions...He was bruised for our iniquities...He suffered so that we may find peace...when Jesus died on the cross the Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all...it was for the transgressions of others that Jesus was stricken...His soul was made an offering for our sin...He bore the iniquities and sins of others, our sins...Jesus died to make intercession for transgressors.
- j. Jesus did not die on the cross for His sins...He died on the cross for my sins and for yours.
- k. Because Jesus was perfect He was qualified to be a sacrifice for the sins of others ...because Jesus was human He could die and pay the penalty of sin...because Jesus was eternal His death would be for all people for all time...and it would eternally secure the salvation of all those who would believe in Him.
- l. The cross of Jesus was the greatest manifestation of man's evil and sin...the cross was the greatest single act of sin and evil ever committed by man.
- m. At the cross sinful man put his Creator on the cross...though Jesus was innocent of any wrongdoing ... perfectly holy and sinless...and the most loving, kind and merciful person who ever lived...evil mankind put Him to death on the cross...and because Jesus died for our sin...we all had a part in putting Him to death...our sin was in the bitter cup of evil that Jesus drank on the cross.
- n. The cross was also the greatest single manifestation and act of God's love for

sinful man ... Jesus Christ who is God Himself left Heaven and became a man so...that He might die to save those who hated and rejected Him.

- o. Why would Jesus die for sinners who would reject, deny and ignore Him? ... *John 3:16 (NKJV) "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*

#### **IV. THE MANDATE OF THE CROSS- (MISSION...MANIFESTATION)**

- a. The death of Jesus on the cross for our sins...mandates and demands that every person make a decision about Jesus...because of the cross a decision to accept or reject Jesus as one's Savior and Lord cannot be avoided, ignored or dismissed.
- b. What a person does with Jesus determines their eternal destiny... *John 3:18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."*
- c. In order for Jesus to be the Savior of the world He had to die on the cross for the sins of the world...in order for Jesus to be your personal Savior...in order for you personally to receive the benefit of what Jesus did on the cross into your life...you must not only believe that He died on the cross to pay the penalty of your sins...you must surrender your life to Him...and receive Him as your Savior and Lord.
- d. There is only one place a person can go to receive forgiveness of their sin...be reconciled to God...and receive the gift of eternal life...the cross of Jesus Christ.
- e. *Alas! and did my Savior bleed...And did my Sov'reign die?...Would He devote that sacred head...For such a sinner such as I? (Chorus)... Was it for crimes that I had done that He groaned upon the tree?...Amazing pity! grace unknown!...And love beyond degree! (Chorus) ...But drops of grief can ne'er repay...The debt of love I owe...Here, Lord, I give myself to you... 'Tis all that I can do...(Chorus) At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light...And the burden of my heart*

*rolled away...It was there by faith I received my sight...And now I am happy all the day!*

**V. CONCLUSION-**

- a. Salvation...join the church...baptize...Christian service...rededication...prayer for yourself and others.