

Devotion #4- The Suffering Servant

The book of Isaiah has shown us some amazing prophecies fulfilled by Jesus! The first week we discovered that Jesus was born through a miracle and grew up in poverty. The second week we were taught that the Father was proud of the Son, Jesus Christ. Last week we learned that the people of Israel had hardened hearts to the truth of Jesus Christ.

This week we will learn about the suffering that Jesus Christ had to endure. Isaiah 53:3, 5 reads, "He was despised and abandoned by men, A man of great pain and familiar with sickness; and like one from whom people hid their faces, he was despised, and we had no regard for him. But he was pierced for our offenses, he was crushed for our wrongdoings; the punishment for our well being was laid upon him, and by his wounds we are healed."

700 years after this prophecy from Isaiah, the Israelite people rejected Jesus as their King and decided that he should be put to death. They falsely accused him of crimes he did not commit. During his trial, Jesus was scourged by a whip many times. Jesus was thrown upon a cross. Nails were placed in his hands and feet, while a crown of thorns was buried into his head. The crowd mocked and spat at him. Jesus, the loving compassionate King of the world was treated like a great criminal.

Imagine that you have been accused of a great crime. Your entire life has been ruined and you are about to pay for your wrongdoing. Right as the judge is about to pronounce the death penalty for your crime, a man intercedes. This mysterious man proclaims that he would like to pay the price for your sins. This man desires to die so that you can live. Why would he do this? You've never done anything for this man. He doesn't owe you anything. You deserve the punishment!

Just like this criminal, we are guilty of sin. Our sin has separated us from God, and we deserve judgement and destruction. But Jesus, out of love, took our place on the cross. All the punishment that we deserved; he took upon himself. 1 Peter 2:24-25 reads, "And he himself brought our sins in his body up on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness; by his wounds you were healed. For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and guardian of your souls."

Questions:

1. Isaiah prophesied that the king would be despised and abandoned by men; pierced for our offenses and crushed for our wrongdoings. How does Jesus fulfill this prophecy?
2. How does sin make you guilty before God?
3. When you hear that Jesus gave his life up for you, does it make you want to give your life up for him?