

## Isaiah 53 – An Unlikely King

Isaiah 52:13-53:12



### **Introduction**

Isaiah 53 is 4<sup>th</sup> of the “Servant Songs” in the later stages of Isaiah, poetic passages about the Lord’s coming servant who was going to achieve the Lord’s will. Isaiah 53 is the most well known of these passages, because it is the most stunning prophecy of the life of Jesus and the way he would die but in doing so both save sinners and defeat death.

Some opening questions:

If someone asked you to sum up what the gospel is, or why Jesus died on the cross, what would be some of the things that you would try and include in your answer?

### **Digging In**

Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12

*Q: What does verse 5 describe as being wrong with the world? What are the different things that we learn about sin from this verse?*

*Q: Verses 4 and 5 are perhaps the most explicit verses in the old testament about the cross.*

*What do they teach us about...*

*What happened at the cross?*

*What was Jesus’ purpose for dying?*

*Why did he have to die?*

*What do we receive because Jesus died on the cross?*

(people would probably be able to give some answers to these questions without even looking at the text, encourage people to look exactly at what the words in Isaiah say and think about what they mean, e.g: what does “by his stripes we are healed” mean? What kind of healing is it talking about? What is the peace that he brought us? What has your experience of this peace been?)

Isaiah was written 700 years before Jesus was born, so it’s important to remember how profoundly prophetic a message it is.

*Q: Have a read of the below passages in Mark’s Gospel – in what ways does Jesus*

### **Mark 14:32-36**

**32** And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” **33** And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. **34** And he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch.” **35** And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. **36** And he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

**Mark 15:2-5**

2 And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." 3 And the chief priests accused him of many things. 4 And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you." 5 But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

**Mark 15:25-27**

25 And it was the third hour<sup>[d]</sup> when they crucified him. 26 And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." 27 And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left.

*Q: In what other ways did Jesus fulfil Isaiah's prophesy about the Servant in Isaiah 53 that aren't mentioned in these passages from Mark?*

*Q: In verse 10 there are two things that are described as being the will of the Lord, what are they and what way do these things become clear in the work that Jesus did?*

*Q: What do you find most striking about what Jesus did on the cross from this passage in Isaiah?*

Finish by spending some time praying together or by listening to a worship song about the cross, a couple of recommendations are...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qT6czqPgJ5s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LULK2nZ6sCc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YIOJ5o8W4Lw>