



The Foreshadow of the Cross : Suffering

Isaiah 53:1-7 | Ryan Pfeiffer | March 23, 2025

The Cross of Jesus has so many facets to it.
Our Series The Cross of Jesus explores the suffering, love, power, Claim
We begin with the prophet Isaiah and his foreshadow of the Messiah.

Isaiah writes from 8th C. BC... time of political upheaval & spiritual crisis.

The 1st half predicts the fall of Judah - the 2nd- God's restoration through a mysterious "Servant of the Lord"... also vs1 "arm of the Lord".

There are 4 songs describing how this Servant rescue/restore Israel... Isa 53r is the 4th song... and Isaiah says something unexpected

The Servant will save, deliver, redeem, restore... but thru suffering, humiliation, rejection and death...

Jesus... Mark 8:31 The Son of Man must suffer many things...

WHY did Jesus have to die? WHAT does it mean that he died for our sins? Today WHY did he have to suffer?

FOCUS. Why did Jesus have to suffer in order to save us?

FIRST. JESUS CLOTHED HIMSELF IN OUR HUMANITY. 4 Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

Fundamental to the human experience is suffering and pain.
Friedrich Nietzsche— "To live is to suffer, to survive is to find some meaning in the suffering."
To embrace our humanity Jesus chose to embrace our suffering.

Isaiah covers the full range of suffering in 9 key phrases:

1. (v3) Despised
2. Rejected
3. Held in low esteem
4. (v4) Punished
5. Stricken
6. Afflicted
7. (v5) Pierced
8. Crushed
9. (v7) Oppressed.

In this list we see suffering at a physical, emotional, relational, spiritual level

Why did Jesus suffer all of this? To show us there is nothing we could ever go through in this life that can put us out of his reach.

Suffering can leave us feeling alone, isolated, separated from others & God.
But Jesus has gone into our deepest heartaches & pain to reach us/ heal us

Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

SECOND. JESUS TOOK ON OUR SIN. 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.

In all there are 6 direct references to the fact that Jesus took on our sin...



The Foreshadow of the Cross : Suffering

Isaiah 53:1-7 | Ryan Pfeiffer | March 23, 2025

- Vs.5, 6, 8, 10, 11, & v12 (CEV) he suffered for our sins and asked God to forgive us.

The level of fulfillment of this prophecy in Jesus is staggering...

- [Luke 23:34](#) Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

According to the Bible... the reason there is suffering in the world is because humanity has chosen to live without God at the center of our lives.

We learned from Genesis 3- Pain & hardship are a direct result of the evil that has infected humanity due to our sin.

1. We suffer from the sin we commit.
2. We suffer from the sin others commit against us.
3. We suffer because our world is infected with evil... that we invited in.

So WHY did Jesus have to suffer? Because he chose to take on our sin.

And Suffering is a part of the curse and judgement on our sin. GEN 3!
JESUS SUFFERED FOR OUR SALVATION. V5 by his wounds we are healed.

Central to Jesus' work on the cross is what theologians call substitutionary atonement.

- 2 Cor 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
- Gal 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse... by becoming a curse for us...

Jesus came to save us by entering into our suffering with us.

Thru his life, death & resurrection... we can be saved...

1. Jesus' suffering and death teaches us about the severity of our sin.
2. Teaches us about the extravagant love of God.
3. Has the power to awaken our hearts to trust God intention toward us.

John 8:24 for unless you believe that I am who I claim to be, you will die in your sins.

Romans 10:9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.