

Old Testament Sermon Outline No: 7

Subject: The Suffering Servant

(A meditation before Communion or Good Friday)

Textual context: Isaiah 53

Introduction

Isaiah chapter 53 is perhaps one of the most dramatic and correct prophecies of the Old Testament. Over seven hundred years before Christ was born, Isaiah foretells much about him. He tells of how he will be accepted, his troubled life and his painful death. Isaiah tells even of his burial.

1. Belief in the Report

Isaiah's prophecies were not accepted during his lifetime. It was though he was speaking into the air. 'Who', he says, 'has believed our report?' For the Jewish mind today, a suffering Messiah is not one he is looking for. He looks for a redeemer, a mighty figure that will restore the kingdom. Yet what does he see? A suffering servant"!

2. The Beauty of the Christ

There is not beauty or indication that anyone would esteem him in fact he was ultimately despised and rejected by men. Vs 2-3

3. Sin Bearer

The whole purpose of Jesus was to fulfil the mission of the Father to bring the Kingdom of God to earth. By the acts he undertook and the compassion he showed to the poor and lonely and outcasts of society, they generally believed he was cursed by God and afflicted by him. Vs 4.

4. The Sacrifice

Verse 5 needs to be reproduced in full as it cannot be bettered. 'But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. 'Part of verse 6 indicates that God laid on Jesus our iniquity.

5. The state of sinners

We were like sheep. All strayed and heading into danger and death. Each following his own path to destruction. Vs 6

6. Silently going to the Cross

It is forecast that the public would turn against him. As he was led to the cross he would not give any defence to protect himself from his accusers. He kept his mouth shut. Vs 7

7. His death would be with wicked men

He was crucified with two thieves Vs 9

8. His grave would be with the rich

Joseph of Arimathea we are told was a rich man. He took the body of Jesus and laid it in his own tomb Mt 27:57.

9. Christ present function.

Verse 12 foretells that the Messiah would be an intercessor for the transgressors. Rom 8:34 'Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.'