

**Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost – October 21, 2018**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

*Pastor Charles Heup*

**Isaiah 53:10-12 (NIV)**

*Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. 11) After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. 12) Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*

Holy Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Holy brothers and sisters, fix your thoughts on Jesus – that was the encouragement we received last week when we were gathered here in the Lord's house. The Holy Spirit enables us to fix our eyes on Jesus through the Holy Scriptures that are able to make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Jesus told the people of his day that the Scriptures which they had (that would be the Old Testament) pointed to him. **You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me.** (John 5:39 NIV) At times it almost seems as if Christ is hidden in the Old Testament. It may not be obvious at first glance but Christ is found in each book of the Old Testament. Here's just a brief but not inclusive summary.

- Christ is the Seed of woman and in Genesis 3:15 we are told He will one day crush Satan.
- In Exodus we find the story of the Passover Lamb, and Christ is the sacrificial Lamb given for us.
- In Leviticus we read of the high priests making sacrifices for the people, and Christ has become our High Priest, making the perfect sacrifice to atone for our sins.
- In Deuteronomy Moses prophesied of a prophet who would come that would be greater than Himself. Jesus is that Great Prophet.
- In the book of Joshua, Joshua met the Captain of the Lord's host. That man is Jesus Christ.
- In Judges, the leaders were judges who delivered God's people, each of them typifying the Lord Jesus.
- Boaz, the kinsman who redeemed Ruth's inheritance, is a picture of Christ.
- David, the anointed one, pictures Jesus and Jesus is described as being the Son of David.
- In 2 Samuel when the king is being enthroned, the entire scene is descriptive of the Lord Jesus.
- The books of Kings speak of the glory of God filling the temple and the Chronicles describe the glorious coming king, both referring to Jesus, the King of Kings.
- Ezra depicts Jesus as the Lord of our fathers.
- Job says clearly that the Redeemer is coming!
- Esther offers a picture of Christ interceding for His people.
- Christ appears time after time in the Psalms, including when David describes Him as "the Shepherd."
- The Book of Proverbs is a book of wisdom – Jesus is the wisdom of God (cf. 1 Corinthians 1:30)
- Isaiah details His glorious birth.
- Jeremiah reveals that He will be acquainted with sorrows.
- Joel describes Him as the Hope of His people.
- Amos tells us that Jesus is the judge of all nations.
- Obadiah warns of the coming eternal kingdom.
- Jonah offers a picture of Jesus being dead for three days, then coming back to life to preach repentance.
- Zephaniah says that He will be the king over Israel.
- Zechariah is the prophet who speaks of Jesus riding on a colt.
- Malachi is the one who calls Him the Son of Righteousness.

When it comes to seeing Christ in the Old Testament, I've always found Isaiah 53 to one of the most vivid portraits of Jesus in all of Scripture. Although it was written 700 years before Christ lived; it reads like an eye-witness account of our Savior's suffering, death and resurrection. Our text includes the final verses of Isaiah 53. These verses serve as a bit of summary of all that Isaiah has written to this point about the Lord's Servant. So holy brothers and sisters in Christ join me in fixing your thoughts on Jesus as

**Theme:** Isaiah Points Us to JESUS - the Lord's Obedient Servant

1. He speaks of his humiliation
2. He speaks of his exaltation
3. He speaks of the blessings he secured for us

Prior to the verses of our text, Isaiah has pointed to the obedience of the Servant of the Lord who **"took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows ... who was pierced for our transgressions and was crushed for our iniquities."** (cf. Isaiah 53:4-5) Isaiah also emphasized the innocence of the Lord's Servant. **He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.** (Isaiah 53:9) A more thorough reading of all of the verses in chapter 53 would point to the Servant of the Lord as our substitute – who provided peace, healing, and forgiveness for God's fallen creation. (cf. Isaiah 53:5-6)

After pointing us to the suffering of the Lord's obedient servant, Isaiah hastens to explain why all of this took place. It wasn't just a case of human justice run amuck. It was part of God's divine and eternal plan. Even though Jesus had no sin or guilt of his own, yet *it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer and to make his life an offering for sin.* (Isaiah 53:10 NIV)

When Isaiah speaks of the Lord's will, he has in mind all of the plans and promises that God had made to save sinners from the punishment they deserved because of their sin. That plan included punishing his own Son for our sins – crushing him and causing him to suffer eternal death for the sins of all. It would be in this way that God's justice would be satisfied. Sin would be paid for by the death of Jesus. By dying in our place, Jesus took away the punishment we deserved for our sins. But, God's demand of perfection from us also needed to be satisfied. Once again, it was the Lord's will to make the life of his servant an *offering for sin* (cf. Isaiah 53:10). In the Old Testament times, people would make different kinds of offerings for sin. The word for offering that Isaiah uses here is a word that speaks of making things right by making compensation or restitution by paying back something that had been withheld from God. We owed God a perfect life – Jesus offered the Lord his perfect life to satisfy that demand. His perfect life undid the wrongs of our sinful lives. His perfect life made things right with God for us.

When Isaiah speaks of Jesus humiliation, he does so in a way which emphasizes God's plan to have Jesus serve as our substitute. Isaiah speaks of Jesus as the one who *poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors* (cf. Isaiah 53:12). Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to death for us. Although he had no sin of his own – he was regarded as a sinner by the Lord – taking our place under his wrath.

The Apostle Paul says it so eloquently: **[Christ Jesus] being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death--even death on a cross!** (Philippians 2:6-8 NIV) Then Paul wrote, *"Therefore God exalted him."* (cf. Philippians 2:9)

Isaiah also speaks of Jesus exaltation as he points our thoughts to Jesus the Lord's obedient servant. Death was not the end for Jesus – Isaiah understood that. **Though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. 11) After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied...12) Therefore I will give him a portion among the great ...**(Isaiah 53:10-12 NIV)

Before Jesus willingly gave up his perfect life as a payment for our sins, Jesus had several conversations with his disciples. He explained to him that what they would see as a defeat would really be his crowning achievement. On one occasion he said, "**The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.**" (John 12:23-24 NIV) That's exactly what Isaiah had in mind when spoke of the fact that Jesus would see his offspring.

His offspring are those who would believe in him and live with him. Jesus will see them because death and grave would not hold him. The Lord would prolong his days! He would rise victoriously from the grave because he had successfully carried out the will of the Lord. The Lord's plan for our salvation would be accomplished by his actions. Jesus will be satisfied because he did the will of the father. God will give him the nations as his footstool (cf. Psalm 2:8) He will receive a portion or an inheritance from the Lord which he will share with those he has redeemed. As a mighty warrior, strong in battle, Jesus conquered sin, death and the devil. "The spoils" of the battle are his to share – forgiveness, life and salvation belong to us through faith in him.

In these verses, the Lord is describing things from his point of view. He wants us to understand how he sees things so that we can appreciate the blessings Jesus, the Lord's obedient servant secured for us.

God is satisfied. He planned the redemption of sinners. He made the soul of his one and only Son the perfect guilt offering for all the sins of the world. It was enough. All this of course, has wonderful consequences for us sinners. God says, 'my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.' What wonderful comfort for us! The servant is righteous. He has no sin. He is innocent and a perfect match to the will of God and the mind of God. He has not deviated from the standard of God in any point. God then declared the many to be as righteous as the servant." (Peoples Bible Isaiah 40-66, page 235)

The final words of our text summarize the blessings that are ours because of what Jesus has done for us. **For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.** (Isaiah 53:12 NIV) You are I are included among the transgressors Jesus suffered for. He carried our sins to the cross. He became our mediator and intercessor – pleading for us with his heavenly Father and offering his perfect life and innocent death to the Father for us. Now we are numbered among those whom he has declared not guilty and with whom he wants to share the glories of life with him in heaven. We are his holy brothers and sisters.

Lord, in loving contemplation  
Fix our hearts and eyes on you  
Till we taste your full salvation  
And your unveiled glory view. (CW 111, 5)

Amen.