

This week we look at Isaiah 53 and we consider the promise of **reconciliation - the restoring of peace between two parties**. Let's listen to this passage like we're living in 700BC. [Isaiah 53](#)

This didn't fit the paradigm for the original hearers. They had different pictures.

- God miraculously intervenes and wipes out the enemy (the Red Sea)
- God works through a mighty King – like David – to defeat the enemy nations

Isaiah 53 pictures the Messiah **suffering**.

Isaiah 53 pictures **us** as God's "enemies" who need reconciliation.

The Old Testament hearers would have been absolutely puzzled by this.

And then... 700 years later... Jesus comes. [Mark 10.45](#)

Jesus's words here connect Him with the suffering servant in Isaiah 53:5... as does [John 10:11](#).

What Jesus revealed **glimpses of** the suffering servant through His teaching, He revealed **more obviously** through His death and resurrection. The suffering servant in Isaiah 53... **that was Jesus!** That is Jesus (the Living Word in the flesh)...

moments:

1. Ponder sin, sorrow and pain.
2. Consider the hope of reconciliation.

Sin, Sorrow and Pain

We all carry pain. We carry the pain of our own sin and the pain of so much collateral damage of living in a broken world. (insert illus)

We are all surrounded by and impacted by sin, sorrow, and pain.

Illus: Imagine this bag of salt represents **my sin, sorrow, and pain.**

- Difficult and... different than the garden
- Focused on **own pain** - More than yours – pride
- “Lord take it away! I can’t bear it.”

Isaiah 53 paints a picture of our **Messiah who takes on this sin, sorrow, and pain.** Jesus fulfills that picture.

- I can take it to Him again and again.
- He forgives again and again.

What if...

Every time I noticed my sin, sorrow, and pain... my eyes where immediately drawn to my pain-bearer? The pain-bearer.

We are sludging through life to carry **one** of these. What would we do with 2 or 3? (Test it?) When Jesus went to the cross He was carrying like... a billion!

Our sin nature has hard-wired us to compare our pain with
such a way that we remain **self-focused** (good for me or you)
Isaiah 53 **invites** us in every moment of pain **to look** at our
not so that we conclude “my pain is nothing compared to
(though that’s true)... but to remember He is a **pain-bearer**

1. When Jesus took on flesh and walked the earth He was
surrounded by sin, sorrow, and pain.
2. When Jesus went to the cross... all of that sin, sorrow,
was piled upon Him.
3. When He cried out from the cross “My God, my God, why
you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46) ... that sin had caused
experience separation from the Heavenly Father... and the
Him.

He is a pain-bearer.

There is **hope** and there is **perspective** in this reality. We
hope in a minute but I want to make one more point about
suffering.

We read that Jesus was... a man of suffering and familiar
we are to identify with Jesus and to follow Jesus than we
become men and women of suffering who are familiar with
don’t want to sugar coat the life of following Jesus. If you
Jesus you will continue to exist in a broken world that’s s
pain and suffering all over you with every step **and** you w
your spiritual understanding of the inner pain that is wr

Conclusion

To follow Jesus is to know suffering and be familiar with pain. I want to share with you a Conclusion and two reflections.

The depths of the pain and sorrow associated with identifying Christ while living in a broken world are only surpassed by the heights of the Glory of His presence... FAR surpassed.

Now... about the hope of reconciliation:

Reconciliation – the restoring of peace between two parties – is what Jesus provided between us and the Living God.

Know that you can experience **that presence** in part now

Vs 11, 5 – that's good news of healing and peace, forgiveness and reconciliation with God.

- Through the Holy Spirit,
- through His Word

That's what Jesus brought in His first coming and **will complete in His second coming.**

through His people and **you will** experience that presence **in full** for eternity comes again.

The weight and the consequences for our rebellion which we could **not bear** has been taken on by Jesus.

Reflection Questions

How does the pain that you see and experience help you with Jesus?

Isaiah 53 has two messages for us:

Feel the pain of brokenness. (sin, sorrow, and pain)

Feel grace of forgiveness.

How does the hope of perfect and eternal peace in His presence change your experience of pain and suffering?

The deeper the first, the more extravagant and life-changing the second. The deeper your feeling of pain – the greater can be your understanding for the One who bore it.

Benediction: Colossians 1:19-22

The **grace of forgiveness** brings **complete reconciliation**. Those who place faith in Jesus experience that in part now... and in full once He **comes again**.

Listen with me to Revelation 21:1-3