

Sermon Series: Names of the Passion — Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN—3/2/2008

Title: “Suffering Servant-Savior”

Text: Isaiah 52: 13–53: 12

Intro.: *Ills.: “Cross Becomes Focal Point of Salvation”*

Theme: Grasping what the gift that Jesus gave us in his willing suffering and death, we are lead to a faith response of sheer gratitude and a devotional commitment to follow in his footsteps of humble service to God and others.

His Mission — to serve not be served (Print 52: 13-15)

- Isaiah sings a five part song called “*The Messiah — God’s Suffering Servant*”
 1. To dispel any false assumption (*amazed*) that the Savior would be a worldly king bent on worldly goals/agendas
 2. *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45*
- Upside down picture of success — seeing a popular Jesus (**vs. 13**) become a crucified Jesus (**14**)
 1. **Ills.: Oprah and Friend’s new anti-cross crusade in promoting A Course of Miracles -New Age Bible**
 2. Be on guard against the world wanting only to hear a message of hope but not acknowledging why they need it
 3. Jesus calls us to his transforming redemption and his mission of serving all
 - a. *“If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.” Mark 9:35*

His Rejection — in the world but not of the world (Print 53: 1-3)

- Jesus did not fit the opinion polls of his time and so was tossed aside as useless (**vs. 2**)
 1. Isaiah even prophesied that he was not pretty to look at or charismatic to believe in and so was shunned (**v.3**)
 2. *On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?” . . .From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. John 6: 60, 66*
- As his followers, we should expect no less from our peers, family, and associates
 1. Isaiah grasped message of Savior come to deliver and expected a faith response but got none from God’s people(**1**)
 2. *If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. John 15: 19*
 3. Our effort and energy is not to fit in with the world’s expectations or find our worth with it but in Jesus, ***the Life***

His Act of Atonement — putting others’ lives ahead of his (Print 53: 4-6)

- Jesus suffered the weight of our sin sickness so that we would not perish from it (literally took the hit for our sin) (**4a**)
- Jesus was able to bear and cover our sin because he had no personal sin to cover, first (**4b, 6b**)
- Jesus was “**crushed**” by our sin so that when we are afflicted by its consequence, we are no longer ruined by its fall
 1. *We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair 2 Cor. 4:8*
- Jesus literally endured beating and whipping, so we could be at peace (**5**)
 1. **Ills.: He took my place, willingly**
 2. *Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Rom 5:1*
 3. A general and lasting amnesty has been declared, so we can come out from our hiding and live free.

His Submission — intentionally making the Father’s agenda His (Print 53: 7-9)

- The Suffering, Servant Savior lays before us the purpose and power of his willing submission (**7**)
 1. *“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. 1 Pet 2:21-23*

2. Even when he was hung between criminals, God affirmed him by burying him in “rich man’s grave” (John 19:38f)
- Whatever injustice we unjustly or (more than likely) justly endure, Jesus becomes our example and power (8,9)
 1. *To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 1 Pet2:21*
 2. Our will is to do the Father’s will, just like Jesus, whatever the cost because we know the end prize that is ours

His Exaltation — waiting on the Father to vindicate the offering (Print 53: 10-12)

- By Jesus’ crushing death/miraculous resurrection, the Father caused the explosive launch of the Kingdom (vs.10)
 1. *Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, 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*
 2. *With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. Acts 4:33*
 3. Do we live with the badge of honor of a crucified/risen Savior and so live in His power among us?
- When we live as “sheep led to slaughter” for Christ’s sake we live in the joyful hope of God’s deliverance (11,12)
 1. *"For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Rom 8: 36-37*
 2. **Illus.: Sacrifice**

Cross Becomes Focal Point of Salvation

Centuries ago on the south coast of China, high on a hill overlooking the harbor of Macao, Portuguese settlers built an enormous cathedral. They believed it would weather time, so they placed as its centerpiece a massive bronze cross that reached high into the sky. Not too many years later, a typhoon came. God’s finger work swept away man’s handiwork, and every stone of the magnificent cathedral crumbled down the hill into the ocean as debris. All that remained unmoved by the storm’s fury were fragments of the front wall and the cross. Centuries later a shipwreck stranded hundreds of men not far out in that same harbor. Some died. A few lived. One of the men left hanging onto wreckage from the ship was disoriented and frightened, having lost sight of land. Yet, each time the ocean’s swells lifted him out of the waves, he spotted the cross, which eventually guided him to safety. **Charles R. Swindoll, “The Darkness and the Dawn” Insight for Living Bible Study Guide, © 2002, p. 1**

Atonement: He took my place, willingly

I read about a small boy who was consistently late coming home from school. His parents warned him one day that he must be home on time that afternoon, but nevertheless he arrived later than ever. His mother met him at the door and said nothing. At dinner that night, the boy looked at his plate. There was a slice of bread and a glass of water. He looked at his father's full plate and then at his father, but his father remained silent. The boy was crushed. The father waited for the full impact to sink in, then quietly took the boy's plate and placed it in front of himself. He took his own plate of meat and potatoes, put it in front of the boy, and smiled at his son. When that boy grew to be a man, he said, "All my life I've known what God is like by what my father did that night." J. Allan Peterson.

Sacrifice

It is said that Cyrus, the founder of the Persian Empire, once had captured a prince and his family. When they came before him, the monarch asked the prisoner, "What will you give me if I release you?" "The half of my wealth," was his reply. "And if I release your children?" "Everything I possess." "And if I release your wife?"

"Your Majesty, I will give myself." Cyrus was so moved by his devotion that he freed them all. As they returned home, the prince said to his wife, "Wasn't Cyrus a handsome man!" With a look of deep love for her husband, she said to him, "I didn't notice. I could only keep my eyes on you- -the one who was willing to give himself for me."

Isaiah 52: 13–53: 12

^{52:13} See, my servant will prosper; he will be highly exalted. ¹⁴ Many were amazed when they saw him — beaten and bloodied, so disfigured one would scarcely know he was a person. ¹⁵ And he will again startle many nations. Kings will stand speechless in his presence. For they will see what they had not previously been told about; they will understand what they had not heard about. (NLT)

^{53:1} Who has believed our message? To whom will the Lord reveal his saving power? ² My servant grew up in the Lord's presence like a tender green shoot, sprouting from a root in dry and sterile ground. There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him. ³ He was despised and rejected – a man of sorrows, acquainted with bitterest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way when he went by. He was despised, and we did not care. (NLT)

⁴ Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God for his own sins! ⁵ But he was wounded and crushed for our sins. He was beaten that we might have peace. He was whipped, and we were healed! ⁶ All of us have strayed away like sheep. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the guilt and sins of us all. (NLT)

⁷ He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led by a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth. ⁸ From prison and trial they led him away to his death. But who among the people realized that he was dying for their sins – that he was suffering their punishment? ⁹ He had done no wrong, and he never deceived anyone. But he was buried, like a criminal; he was put in a rich man's grave. (NLT)

¹⁰ But it was the Lord's good plan to crush him and fill him with grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have a multitude of children, many heirs. He will enjoy a long life, and the Lord's plan will prosper in his hands. ¹¹ When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of what he has experienced, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins. ¹² I will give him the honors of one who is mighty and great, because he exposed himself to death. He was counted among those who were sinners. He bore the sins of many and interceded for sinners. (NLT)