

Commentary on Isaiah 53:4-6, 10-12
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The **International Bible Lesson** (*Uniform Sunday School Series*) for **Sunday, January 30 , 2011**, is from **Isaiah 53:4-6, 10-12**. Five **Questions for Discussion** follow the *Bible Lesson Commentary*. The **[International Bible Lessons](http://internationalbiblelessons.org)** can be read at: <http://internationalbiblelessons.org>. The lesson is also published each Saturday morning in [The Oklahoman](#).

Isaiah 53:4-6

4 Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

The Bible shows how easy it is to misunderstand God and His intentions and actions if we do not study His word carefully with the intention of learning and doing His will. Whereas most of those in Jesus' day considered His death on the cross as God's punishment for His sins, especially for saying He was the Son of God (making himself equal with God), He actually bore our weaknesses and diseases as He hanged on the cross. Some debate whether or not sin is a disease; but we do know that on the cross Jesus' bore both our diseases and sins.

5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises (stripes) we are healed.

Because of our sins, we are responsible for the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. If people had never rebelled and sinned against God, Jesus would not have needed to die as a sacrifice for our sins. The punishment we deserve for our sins was laid upon Him in a special way so we would not need to suffer this punishment. Jesus Christ is able to remove the temporal and eternal consequences of our sins when we trust in Him as Lord and Savior; such as, our true moral guilt, uncleanness, slavery to sin, unwholesome habits, and eternal punishment and separation from God.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Though we may be following the Lord now by God's grace and through our faith in Jesus Christ, there have been times in the past (and may be times in the future) when we have strayed away from God and the path He has laid out for us, especially the commands He has given in the Bible. We have sometimes gone our own way instead of God's way (and we may still be tempted to do that sometimes). When Christ died on the cross our iniquity was laid on Him, and because

God raised Him from the dead He is our Good
Shepherd and He will help us follow Him and stay on
God's path.

Isaiah 53:10-12

10 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.

The will of the Lord was the mutual agreement between the Father and His Son for both of them to suffer the pain of Jesus (the Father's Son) dying on the cross as a substitute for us. His death was undeserved, for He never sinned or rebelled against His heavenly Father. His death was sacrificial (as the lamb's were slaughtered in the Old Testament as a sacrifice for sins, but the sacrifice of these lambs could not accomplish all that Jesus' sacrifice accomplished). Death was not the end for Jesus, for He would see those He saved by His death and resurrection—His offering would be effective for the salvation of many.

11 Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

Jesus knew exactly why and when He would be arrested and crucified (it did not happen by chance); therefore, He found great satisfaction from knowing that by His sacrificial death many would be saved from suffering the consequences they deserved for

their sins. Jesus was not surprised by His rejection, for He knew what was in the hearts of men and He knew the consequences of His coming from heaven to earth to save us. Jesus was right (righteous) in all He did, and He empowers all of His followers to live right (righteous) as they love and serve Him.

12 Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

We see today how God the Father has certainly raised Jesus to the level of being recognized as “great,” a great Leader and a great Person (and, in addition, He is seated at the right hand of God the Father. Just as Jesus prayed for us before He died (see John 17), so He still prays (intercedes) for us in heaven. Yet, people will be divided between those who accept and those who reject Jesus for Who He is. Jesus is the One who will divide the spoils of spiritual warfare with those who fight the battle of faith with Him; just as Paul said, “I have fought the good fight.” We will be rewarded by Jesus for our faithful service to Him and for any suffering we experience as we engage in spiritual warfare.

Five Questions for Discussion

1. What are some common misunderstandings about God? Why do some people have these misunderstandings? How might you answer those with these misunderstandings?
2. What are some of the benefits we enjoy now and will enjoy later because Jesus Christ died on the cross and we love Him as our Lord and Savior?
3. Outside of church, how and how often do people talk about iniquities, sins, and transgressions? Inside of church, how and how often do people talk about iniquities, sins, and transgressions? Does this make it difficult or easy to talk about why Jesus died?
4. Why is Jesus' death and resurrection from the dead considered "Good News"?
5. Why is it important for God to express His love for people in both just and merciful ways instead of just one or the other way? How might you tell someone that Jesus' death enabled God the Father and the Son to express their concern for both justice and mercy?

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