

The Wounds of Honour are Self-Inflicted

Introduction

This week, Minister Cornel Green reminded us that **The Wounds of Honour are Self Inflicted**. The message brought us back to Isaiah 53:1-12 and reminded us that God has already revealed to us His arm (or operational saving power). That when Christ robed Himself in flesh, it was not because He was out of options or had no choice in the matter. The scripture reminds us in John 10:18 **that no man took Jesus' life, He lay it down**. One song writer reminds us that He could have called 10,000 angels to destroy the world and set Him free. All power was in His hand but rather than use it, He chose us! Man, that in itself is reason to shout a praise to God! Take a praise break right now.

Verse 6 of our scripture text in Isaiah 53 refers to the fact, that “We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way”. I've heard that sheep are very willful and foolish creatures. They can find a hole in the fence and get out, but they can never find it to get back in. The shepherd must go after them every single time. Many years ago, the singer Frank Sinatra made a song popular called "I did it my way". It was a huge hit; I've seen recordings of people clapping and becoming emotional as they proudly sing along with him. It sounds like something admirable, something everybody ought to emulate. How proud we feel that we did it our way. But when you turn to the record of the Scripture, you find that that is the problem, not the solution. Everyone is doing things their way, so humanity is in constant conflict, forever striving with one another, unable to work anything out, because we all want to do it our way. As we continue to read the passage, we can see that it says, “and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all”. He bore our punishment and took our place.

This, of course, is the very heart of the gospel, the good news. Jesus took our place. As Peter puts it, ““He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross”, (1 Peter 2:24). He took our sins and paid the price for them. He had no sins of his own and scripture is very careful to record the sinlessness of Jesus himself. He was not suffering for His own transgressions, but for our sins. One of the most beautiful parts of this whole revelation, is that God did not wait for us to come to Him in repentance. He loved you and I at our absolute worst. What kind of love is this? A love that we cannot be separated from, not by tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, or violence. The scripture goes on to say “neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God...” (Romans 8:38-39).



Getting Started

Read Isaiah 53:1-12 and John 3:1-21 answer the following:

1. How does this scripture help us to better understand the truth of Jesus dying in our place as our substitute? What happened at the cross that took the penalty of our sin away and purchased our freedom?
2. Sometimes after reading Isaiah 53, we might think, “How do people not understand this gospel?” How does John 3 help us to answer this question? (See John 3 verses 8, 10, 19)
3. How does this fulfilled prophecy make your heart swell with joy and love for our Savior? Why is it only right for us to highly esteem and obey the One who was despised and rejected?

Let's Get Personal

1. Where were you when Christ found you? What is the story of God's salvation in your life?
2. Think of a time when you like a sheep went astray, how did the Shepherd come after you?
3. How can you be a better witness to those who do not understand that Jesus died for their sins?

Take The Next Step

1. This week, your assignment is to define the following terms - peace; torn, pure.
2. How do each of these terms relate to your experience of the gospel of Christ?
3. Give Thanks! Each day this week, Spend 3 minutes thanking God for the sacrifice of the cross.

Have a great week!

