

THE SUFFERING SERVANT

Scripture: Isaiah 53:4-7

January 4, 2021

Message: **“Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has lain on him the iniquity of us all.”**

Isaiah 53: 4-7

These verses capture the essence of this passage, and they resonate most deeply with me. I noticed God’s people were compared to wandering sheep, which is a comparison that is made numerous times in the Bible.

We are the Lord’s wandering sheep because we consistently stray from the path He laid out for us, but He is always beside us, guiding us back time and time again.

God is the caring and patient Shepherd who loves us so much that He is willing to sacrifice for us, even though He knows we will continue straying from His path.

Christ was the final sacrifice to atone for the sins of all the people and all the people that were yet to be, even if they did not believe in Him. His death made possible a future when all that is wrong on Earth will be set right.

There was a lot of debate among Jewish leaders about the meaning of this passage. Some believed that it was a prophet long ago that had been persecuted for his faith. This did not completely add up because the phrasing “upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed,” would not apply to a regular prophet.

Others believed that this passage spoke of the Messiah in the future who would forgive the sins of all people. The Jewish leaders wanted the Messiah to be a triumphant king, not a suffering servant, so this caused conflict. However, the Jewish leaders did not realize the Messiah was above things like wealth and human power because He is the King of Kings and He brings forgiveness to all of us, which is greater than any amount of money.

Prayer: Dear Lord, to You we lift all our troubles and all our sins. Be our Shepherd, guide us ‘wandering sheep’ to Your path so that we may find salvation in Your name. Your grace is never-ending. Let it envelop us so that we may become Your Disciples and be examples of Your love and acceptance here on Earth. In Your heavenly name we pray. Amen.

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