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| **SERIES** | **FINDING JESUS** |
| **BIBLE** | **ISAIAH 53** |
| **TITLE/TOPIC** | **GOOD FRIDAY** |
| **OVERVIEW** | Good Friday is a day of remembrance of the redemptive work of Christ for our sins. The restoration of relationship through the reward that Jesus gets in defeating death for all those who trust in Him.  Moving through the cost of this accomplishment, we look at Jesus who fulfilled ALL that needed to take place to be a perfect sacrifice for atonement, not merely a moral example. He died in our place. |
| **SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN** | **His Rejection (53:1–3)**  They rejected Jesus in three ways.   * His words – v1 (John 1:11; 12:37–38) * His works – v1 “the arm of the Lord revealed” (John 12:37–40) * His Person – v2 Jesus wasn’t born from prestige but from rubbish, he was not seen as worthy. (John 1:43–46)   They had a form of religion, but they had no life, and because He brought life, they rejected Him. What a remarkable Man, human (“He shall grow up”) yet divine. This offended the Jews who could not believe that God would come in the form of a Servant[[1]](#footnote-1)  **His Redemption (53:4–6)**  These verses explain why: He was taking the place of sinners and bearing their judgment for them. See 1 Peter 2:24 and 2 Cor. 5:21. Note the price that he paid: (1) wounded, or pierced, referring to His death on the cross, pierced by nails—John 19:37, Zech. 12:10; (2) bruised, which means “crushed” as under a burden, the weight of sin which was laid on Him; (3) chastised, or punished as though He had broken the law, in this case with stripes from the scourging.  But these physical sufferings were nothing compared to the spiritual suffering of the cross, when He bore our transgressions (vv. 5, 8), our rebellious and deliberate breaking of God’s Law; our iniquities (vv. 5–6), the crookedness of our nature; and our griefs and sorrows (v. 4), our calamities and the unhappy results of our sins. We are sinners by birth (“All we like sheep have gone astray”) and by choice (“we have turned every one to his own way”). See Ps. 58:3 and Rom. 5:12ff. Verse 6 begins with the “all” of condemnation, but ends with the “all” of **salvation**. **He died for us all**. These verses are the very heart of the Gospel—“Christ died for *our* sins.”[[2]](#footnote-2)  **His Resignation (53:7–9)**  He was not treated justly; He was oppressed, harassed, treated roughly. Yet He did not complain or cry out. They mocked Him and pushed Him from one place to another, yet He was silent and meek as a lamb. He was the “Lamb of God” who came to take away the world’s sins (John 1:29). Verse 8 suggests that He was taken violently from prison and was not permitted to have justice. See Acts 8:33 and Matt. 27:22–31. The trial was “rigged” and the whole thing was illegal. Yet His “generation” did not protest; His disciples had forsaken Him and fled. And His death was not a glorious one; He was “cut off” like an unclean leper cast out of the city. In spite of this illegal and inhuman treatment, Jesus Christ did not protest or argue. Why? Because He had come to die for the sins of the people. Barabbas the criminal was treated with more kindness than was Jesus the Son of God.[[3]](#footnote-3)  “He had done no violence, and there was no deceit in His mouth.” Men were unjust, but God was just. What an example Christ is to us as He submitted completely to the will of God (1 Peter 2:18–25). When men treat us unjustly (as they will because we follow Christ), we must glorify Christ by being yielded to His will.[[4]](#footnote-4)  **His Reward (53:10-12)**  All of this was planned by God and His plan was a complete success. See 52:13 and 42:1–4, where we see the success of the Savior’s work. These verses in chapter 53 show us the Godward side of the cross: His death “pleased the Lord.” Does this mean that the Father rejoiced in His Son’s suffering and death? No. But it pleased Him to see the work of salvation completed, the sacrifice accepted, and sin atoned for. Now a holy God could, in His grace, save undeserving sinners.[[5]](#footnote-5) |
| **GOSPEL** | How does this sermon bring people to the Gospel?  It is only faith in the redemptive work of Christ that we can share in the reward of Jesus accomplishment. He died for sinners.  “If we confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead, we will be saved.”  When we do this, all that Jesus has done for us is then granted to us through this saving faith.  The cross of Jesus helps us understand all that had to happen in order for our access back to the Father. For reconciliation. Restoration. We are His reward. |
| **NEXT**STEPS | Begin | Connect | Engage | Grow | Disciple  **BEGIN –** Do believe that Jesus was crucified for you? |

**Resources:**

This chapter is the very heart of Isa. 40–66, and it takes us to the cross. That these verses apply to Jesus Christ is proved by John 12:38, Matt. 8:17, Acts 8:32–35, Mark 15:28, Luke 22:37, Rom. 10:16, and 1 Peter 2:24. **Isaiah 53 is quoted or referred to at least eighty-five times in the NT.[[6]](#footnote-6)**

The prophecy begins with 52:13–15. Verse 13 tells of Christ’s exaltation, and the rest of the section deals with His humiliation. It is this strange “contradiction” that perplexed the OT prophets, as 1 Peter 1:10–11 informs us. They did not realize that there would be a long period between Messiah’s coming as the Suffering Servant to die and then returning as the Exalted Sovereign to reign. Verse 14 informs us that Christ’s physical sufferings made Him look inhuman, so much so that men were astonished at Him. But when He returns the second time (v. 15), the whole world will be “startled, shocked” (the word should not be translated “sprinkle” but “startle”). See Zech. 12:9–10 and Rev. 1:7. **The first time He came, He astonished a few people in Palestine; the next time He comes, He will startle the whole world.** Now for the chapter before us. It traces the life and ministry of Christ.[[7]](#footnote-7)

1. Warren W. Wiersbe, [*Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the Old Testament*](https://ref.ly/logosres/expolnot?ref=Bible.Is53.1-3&off=755&ctx=nd+dry+spiritually.+~They+had+a+form+of+r) (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993), Is 53:1–3. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Warren W. Wiersbe, [*Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the Old Testament*](https://ref.ly/logosres/expolnot?ref=Bible.Is53.4-6&off=116&ctx=death+on+the+cross%3f+~These+verses+explain) (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993), Is 53:4–6. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Warren W. Wiersbe, [*Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the Old Testament*](https://ref.ly/logosres/expolnot?ref=Bible.Is53.7-9&off=30&ctx=esignation+(53:7%E2%80%939)%0a~He+was+not+treated+j) (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993), Is 53:7–9. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Warren W. Wiersbe, [*Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the Old Testament*](https://ref.ly/logosres/expolnot?ref=Bible.Is53.7-9&off=1235&ctx=+this+was+fulfilled.~+%E2%80%9CHe+had+done+no+vio) (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993), Is 53:7–9. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Warren W. Wiersbe, [*Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the Old Testament*](https://ref.ly/logosres/expolnot?ref=Bible.Is53.10-12&off=26&ctx=s+Reward+(53:10%E2%80%9312)%0a~All+of+this+was+plan) (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993), Is 53:10–12. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Warren W. Wiersbe, [*Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the Old Testament*](https://ref.ly/logosres/expolnot?ref=Bible.Is53&off=10&ctx=Isaiah+53%0a~This+chapter+is+the+very+heart) (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993), Is 53. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Warren W. Wiersbe, [*Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the Old Testament*](https://ref.ly/logosres/expolnot?ref=Bible.Is53&off=304&ctx=ve+times+in+the+NT.%0a~The+prophecy+begins+) (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993), Is 53. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)