

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.*

Nov 2016

**Isaiah**

Holy Living

## Lesson # 15 God's Obedient Servant

### INTRODUCTION

How did you handle your popularity (or unpopularity) while in school?

### OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

#### Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12

1. Why would it make more sense for us if these verses were in the order of Isa 52:14; 15; 13?
2. What verses would go with the titles: His message (the Gospel), His appearance (suffering and death); His exaltation (resurrection and ascension)?
3. How would Jesus have been described in His yearbook? Vv 53:2-3
4. What is the consequence of Jesus bearing our (Adam's) sins (**1 Pet 2:24**) on the cross? Vv 53:4-6
5. What are the plural pronouns in verses 4-6? To whom are these pronouns referring?
6. Why was it important that Jesus didn't speak up to defend Himself, even though He was innocent? Vv 7-9
7. Criminals usually were not buried (which added to their humiliation). Why was it important that Jesus was declared dead and buried? How had God prepared the way? **1 Cor 15:1-5; Mk 15:42-47**

*Note: Isaiah saw, in generalities, what would be more precisely revealed in the circumstances of Jesus' death. The two clauses of this half-verse (verse 9) should be understood as poetically parallel phrases, intended to suggest the same idea about the servant's death. In the view of the prophets of Israel, the rich were often equated with the wicked. The authorities no doubt intended to dispose of Jesus' body in a common pit with criminals. But, though He died with "the wicked" (two brigands or revolutionaries, often erroneously called mere "thieves"), His burial was in the tomb of a rich man, Joseph of Arimathea (Mk 15:45-46).<sup>1</sup>*

8. How does Isaiah explain the cross from God's point of view? Vv 10-12, **Acts 2:23; Phil 2:8-10**
9. How did Christ's death satisfy God's demands of the Law? **2 Cor 5:21; Rom 5:17**
10. Why was Jesus' death more than a mere martyr's death? Vv 7, 10, 12

### APPLICATION

How is your life different because Jesus was an obedient servant that paid for your sins? **Jn 17:3**

*The messianic interpretation of Isaiah 53 was held by Jewish rabbis till the twelfth century. After that, Jewish scholars started interpreting the passage as a description of the sufferings of the nation of Israel. But how could Israel die for the sins of Israel? (v. 8) And who declared that Israel was innocent of sin and therefore had suffered unjustly? (v. 9) No, the prophet wrote about an innocent individual, not a guilty nation. He made it crystal clear that this individual died for the sins of the guilty so that the guilty might go free.<sup>2</sup> Acts 2:36*

*A friend of mine that grew up Jewish and is now a part of "Chosen People Ministry" told me that the curriculum of study for all Jews is controlled to be the same each year in the synagogues. There is a scripture reading and review (of the Old Testament) that methodically takes place each year (all over the world). He said they purposely do not read or study Isaiah 53. It was a shock to him as an adult to find out that it was in the Bible. Dick Morton 2016*

<sup>1</sup> Cabal, T., Brand, C. O., Clendenen, E. R., Copan, P., Moreland, J., & Powell, D. (2007). *The Apologetics Study Bible: Real Questions, Straight Answers, Stronger Faith* (1065). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.

<sup>2</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *Be comforted*. An Old Testament study. (130). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.