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The Servant's Offering

Isaiah 53.10

Series: The Suffering Servant (Communion Series)

The Village Church

March 5, 2023

I. Isaiah's Scandal

- A. It is interesting to note how we get used to doing things, well, the way we've always done them
 - 1. We can't imagine doing them any other way
 - a. And why would we even question changing the routine
- B. God established some routines for the people of Israel
 - 1. An entire sacrificial system
 - a. Designed to provide atonement for the sins of the people
 - b. And to lead them closer to God
- C. **Burnt offerings**
 - 1. Animals were totally consumed on the altar
 - a. Indicated an entire surrender of the worshiper to God
- D. **Grain offerings**
 - 1. Only offering made without the killing of animals
 - 2. Involved fine flour
 - a. Indicated the worshiper making a living sacrifice unto God
- E. **Peace offerings**
 - 1. Worshiper could participate by eating a portion of the meat of the animal which was sacrificed
 - a. Indicated fellowship or communion of the worshiper with God
- F. **Sin offerings**
 - 1. Dealt with the sin nature and the pollution of sin
 - a. Forgave sin of the worshiper
 - b. And cleansed the worshiper
- G. **Trespass offerings**
 - 1. Dealt with particular sins
 - a. Forgave the worshiper of those sins
- H. All kinds of animals were used in the sacrificial system
 - 1. Oxen or bulls
 - 2. Sheep
 - 3. Goats
 - 4. Pigeons and turtledoves when the oxen, sheep and goats were unaffordable
- I. All kinds of people were the focus of the sacrificial system – no one was left out
 - 1. Sacrifices for the priests
 - 2. Sacrifices for the leaders
 - 3. Sacrifices for the common people

- J. You can imagine the “industry” of sacrifice developing
 - 1. As animals were killed and daily sacrifices were made
 - a. Blood collected, sprinkled on the altar, poured on the altar
 - 2. The smoke of the offerings rising nearly 24-7 over the whole Israelite camp during their wilderness wanderings
 - a. And then generating clouds of smoke over the city of Jerusalem once the temple was constructed
 - 3. Literally hundreds of animals were sacrificed, burned, and eaten daily
 - a. Even more on those special feast occasions like the Day of Atonement
- K. God established the sacrificial system to be a constant reminder to His people
 - 1. A reminder of who He is – a holy and altogether righteous God
 - a. And of who His people are – an unholy, sinful people
 - b. Separated from God by their sin
 - c. Desperately in need of atonement, forgiveness, cleansing
 - d. So they could sense the enjoyment of fellowship with God, of communion with their Creator and Redeemer
- L. And so day after day, week after week, year after year – the sacrifices continued
 - 1. They knew the drill
 - a. They knew what they had to do to maintain some semblance of relationship with this holy God
 - 2. Their agrarian lifestyle, which revolved around the raising of livestock, was central to their community
 - a. Central to who they were before God
 - b. Central to who they were before the surrounding nation-states
- M. But then Isaiah comes along
 - 1. And proclaims that God has sent His Servant
 - a. **The Servant of the Lord** – Servant of Yahweh
 - 2. And this Servant will be a human being
 - a. Not a bull or goat or sheep or pigeon
 - 3. And this human being will be God’s sin offering
 - 4. **“When You (God) make His soul an offering for sin...”**
- N. What?
 - 1. We don’t sacrifice human beings
 - a. We kill oxen and sheep and goats
 - b. We pour out the blood of animals on the altar
 - c. We burn the carcasses of these animals
 - d. We eat the flesh of these animals
 - e. We don’t eat the flesh of humans
 - 2. We’ve been doing it for centuries
 - a. It’s the way we’ve always done it!
 - b. What’s the point of changing the system?
- O. But Isaiah says, “My Servant will be the sin offering”
 - 1. There is no more radical scandal flowing from the words of Isaiah than that

- P. Until Jesus comes along and says, "... unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you." (John 6.53)
 - 1. Until Paul comes along and says of Christ, "... whom God set forth as a propitiation (wrath-removing sacrifice, a sin offering) by His blood..." (Romans 3.25)
- Q. Until the author of Hebrews comes along and says, "... it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins." (Hebrews 10.4)
 - 1. "... He has made the first (covenant – sacrificial system) obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away." (Hebrews 8.13)
- R. Now I don't think the Hebrew people got it
 - 1. They had practiced the system for so long
 - a. They had sacrificed animals forever, it seemed to them
 - b. They had taken for granted that the sacrifice of animals is just the way you do religion
 - 2. That Isaiah's words seemed just nonsense to them
- S. Nevertheless, there it is – the greatest prophets words
 - 1. The word of God Himself through Isaiah
 - 2. Isaiah 53:10 (NKJV) —
 - a. 10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him;
 - b. He has put Him to grief.
 - c. When You make His soul an offering for sin,
 - d. He shall see His seed,
 - e. He shall prolong His days,
 - f. And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.

II. The Suffering Servant

- A. We return this morning to our communion series on Isaiah 53 – The Suffering Servant
 - 1. We have been for many months unpacking verse by verse this most important OT prophecy
 - a. One of the most quoted OT passages in the New Testament
 - b. In which the central features of biblical religion are on display
- B. The Servant's Great Exchange
 - a. His own righteousness for our sin
 - 2. The Servant's Redemption
 - a. His purchase of His people out of the slave market of sin
 - 3. The Servant's Message
 - a. The good news that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself
 - 4. The Servant's Incarnation
 - a. That He came from heaven to earth
 - b. Taking upon Himself our nature so He could save us
 - 5. The Man of Sorrows
 - a. The nature and character of His suffering on our behalf

6. **The Servant's Substitution**
 - a. How He took our place in the suffering we justly deserve
 7. **The Servant's Burden**
 - a. The immensity of responsibility He carried for all of those who would ever believe in Him in His work of salvation
 8. **The Servant's Silence**
 - a. How He refrained from His own defense as wicked men inflicted their prosecution of Him
 9. **The Servant's Oppression**
 - a. How the Messiah was afflicted by His enemies – the very people who should have recognized He was fulfilling their own scriptures
 10. **The Servant's Innocence**
 - a. How the Servant's suffering was undeserved, and how His suffering was an identification with those – us – who deserved His place
- C. This morning we take up v. 10
1. **Isaiah 53:10** (NKJV) —
 - a. 10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him;
 - b. He has put Him to grief.
 - c. When You make His soul an offering for sin,
 - d. He shall see His seed,
 - e. He shall prolong His days,
 - f. And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.

III. **The Sin Offering**

A. **The Need**

1. The sin offering was needed, well, because of sin
 - a. Sin separates us from God
 - b. God is altogether righteous; we are not
 - c. God is holy; we are anything but
2. Sin offerings are for sinners; for people who sin
3. Here's something you might find encouraging
 - a. Sin offerings are for sinners
 - b. So if you aren't one – everything I say in this message from here on you can simply ignore, without any guilt whatsoever
 - c. You're good to go
 - d. If you're without sin, you don't need a sin offering
 - e. You don't need bulls or goats or even pigeons or turtledoves
 - f. And you don't need Jesus
 - g. And you can feel free to leave
 - h. If you're watching on TV, you can change the channel; turn to your favorite news channel and watch other people sinning; which is what you see most of the time when you watch the news
4. But if you are a sinner – if you do sin – you better stick with us
 - a. You do need a sin offering

- b. Sin offerings are for sinners
- 5. Now, in the OT sacrificial system we run into something that can sometimes be confusing
 - a. In the OT system, sin offerings are for “unintentional” sins
 - b. **Unintentional sins** and sins of omission were the focus of the sin offering; sins committed in ignorance of the Law, or when people had forgotten the laws they learned
 - c. Well that can be troubling
 - d. Because a lot of the sins you and I commit – well, we know we’re sinning
 - e. We struggle with it – the flesh and the spirit – as Paul talks about in Romans 7 and 8
 - f. But when we sin, we usually know what we’re doing; we know it’s sin
 - g. We often sin intentionally in that sense
 - h. Is there an offering for our sin?
- 6. The opposite of the “unintentional” sin in the OT is not “intentional” sin
 - a. The opposite is **“Presumptuous” sin**
 - b. Literally, “with a high hand”; high-handed sin
 - c. Defiant sin
- 7. Not all intentional sin is defiant, or presumptuous, or high-handed
 - a. **Numbers 15:30–31** (NKJV) — 30 ‘But the person who does anything presumptuously [defiantly, high-handedly], whether he is native-born or a stranger, that one brings reproach on the LORD, and he shall be cut off from among his people. 31 Because he has despised the word of the LORD, and has broken His commandment, that person shall be completely cut off; his guilt shall be upon him.’ ”
 - b. There’s no sacrifice for that kind of sin
 - c. That kind of sin is like the defiance of Josef Stalin, who on his death bed stuck his fist in the air and cursed God
 - d. No sorrow for sin; no contrition for having broken the law of God
 - e. No wrestling between spirit and flesh
 - f. No sense of guilt before God
 - g. Not a care in the world if God even cares
- 8. We live in a world in which there is an increasing defiance of the commands of God
 - a. Our world celebrates sin; have parades and festivals for sin
 - b. Couldn’t care less if God doesn’t like it
- 9. There is no sacrifice for that kind of sin
 - a. But if God forgives David of his sin with Bathsheba – adultery and murder – and He does!
 - b. He forgives the sin of all those who cast themselves on His mercy
- 10. And not just forgiveness of particular sins
 - a. Forgiveness of the sin nature; our flesh

- b. We aren't sinners because we sin; we sin because we are sinners
 - c. And the sin offering covers our sinful nature
 - 11. And not just the forgiveness of our sinful natures
 - a. The pollution and uncleanness that comes with our sinning
 - 12. **1 John 1:9** (NKJV) —
 - a. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
 - 13. So if you're a sinner, you need a sin offering
- B. **The Type**
 - 1. Now where's the gospel in all of this?
 - a. That's why Isaiah is such a scandal
 - 2. The whole sacrificial system – for all the sacrifices – are all just types
 - a. They all were just temporary; placeholders for the real thing
 - 3. But the Hebrew people got used to thinking they were the real thing
 - a. And in thinking they were the real thing, they missed the real thing!
 - b. And Isaiah's words seemed just so much incomprehensible gobbledygook
 - 4. So when the real thing showed up – they were clueless
 - a. And they killed Him
- C. **The Lamb of God**
 - 1. But they killed the Lamb of God
 - a. Which was (is) the real thing
 - b. And which was the plan all along
 - 2. The Lamb of God – who takes away the sins of the world
 - a. As the sin offering
 - 3. So when the Lamb of God came
 - a. He offered Himself up on the cross
 - b. As a sin offering
 - 4. And within a generation – from AD 70 on – there were no more animal sacrifices
 - a. As Hebrews says, they were obsolete and disappearing
 - b. **Hebrews 8:13** (NKJV) — 13 In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.
 - c. And it did vanish
 - 5. And they have never returned
 - a. Because the true sin offering has been made
 - b. Once for all
 - c. By the Servant of the Lord
 - d. Isaiah's Suffering Servant

IV. **The Nature of the Servant's Offering**

- A. Our text says something about the nature of the Servant's offering for sin
 - 1. "Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief."

- B. In our study of Isaiah 53 so far, we've spent considerable time on the suffering of the Suffering Servant
 - 1. "Man of sorrows... acquainted with grief" (Isaiah 53.3)
 - 2. "Despised and rejected by men... we did not esteem Him"
 - 3. "Stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted" (Isaiah 53.4)
- C. Spent time on the physical suffering of Jesus on the cross
 - 1. But also the emotional and psychological suffering
 - 2. Even His spiritual suffering as the Father turned His back on His Son
- D. Here in this text we're reminded of these elements of His suffering
 - 1. "We was bruised... put to grief"
 - 2. We never leave behind the suffering of the Suffering Servant
- E. As worshipers may we never forget what our Savior suffered
 - 1. In order to spare us from eternal suffering

V. The Agent of the Servant's Offering

- A. But what this text concentrates more on is the agent of the Servant's suffering
 - 1. Isaiah 53:10 (NKJV) —
 - a. 10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him;
 - b. He has put Him to grief.
 - c. When You make His soul an offering for sin...
 - 2. God Himself is the agent of the Servant's offering
 - a. The cause of all the affliction of the Savior
 - 3. God did it!
 - 4. Bill O'Reilly published a series of books on famous killings
 - a. Killing Lincoln
 - b. Killing Kennedy
 - c. Killing Crazy Horse
 - d. Killing Jesus
 - 5. Killing Jesus – concentrates on the political and religious actors who conspired, wittingly and unwittingly, to result in the crucifixion of Jesus
 - a. But those are just the proximate causes, the instrumental causes
 - b. And completely misses the point of the whole NT
 - 6. God did it!
 - a. It pleased the LORD to bruise Him
 - b. He (God) has put Him to grief
 - c. God made His soul an offering for sin
- B. His Act
 - 1. He did it by His acts
 - a. Arranging His birth in Bethlehem, even though Mary and Joseph were in Nazareth – through the decree of the supposed ruler of the world (NOT!)
 - b. Bringing together bitter enemies – Jewish religious leaders and the Romans – to concentrate their hatred on Jesus
 - 2. God was responsible
 - a. God bruised Him

- b. God put Him to grief
 - c. God killed Him – as an offering for sin
 - 3. Don't let God off the hook
 - a. God was behind it all
 - 4. You say, "I can't believe in a God like that; who would afflict and murder an innocent man"
 - a. No – but remember, the Son of God incarnate conspired with the Father willingly
 - b. **Isaiah 49:8** (NKJV) — 8 Thus says the LORD: "In an acceptable time I have heard You [Servant], And in the day of salvation I have helped You; I will preserve You and give You As a covenant to the people, To restore the earth, To cause them to inherit the desolate heritages..."
 - c. **John 10:18** (NKJV) — 18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again....
 - 5. You want to hear a real conspiracy theory?
 - a. It's no theory; but it is a conspiracy
 - b. The Father and the Son conspired together so that the Son was bruised, put to grief, killed as a sin offering
 - c. To be the Lamb of God
 - 6. So that you and I would be saved
 - a. God did it!
 - b. He was the Agent of the Sin Offering
 - c. The LORD, Yahweh, offering "His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin" (**Romans 8.3**)
 - 7. Why?
 - a. "In order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."
 - 8. You may reject a God like that
 - a. But if you do, you're on your own
 - b. No sacrifice for your sin
 - c. No help from above
 - d. You might have a chaplain or pastor (not one of ours) hold your hand when you are dying, and tell you it's all right – give you false hope
 - 9. But if you reject this God, this One who makes His Son an offering for sin – your sin
 - a. There is no other sacrifice for your sin
 - b. No help from above
 - 10. For this God "So loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." (**John 3.16**)
- C. **His Pleasure**
- 1. And you know what else?

- a. God was happy to do it!
- b. He was pleased as punch!
- 2. In fact, the pleasure of God is what drove Him to do it!
 - a. The text says it twice
 - b. In fact, the pleasure of God in the death of His Son are bookends of this entire text!
- 3. **Isaiah 53:10** (NKJV) —
 - a. 10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him... And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.
- 4. God was the agent of the Servant's offering
 - a. And it was His delight to offer Him
 - b. So that you and I would be spared

VI. **The Reward of the Servant's Offering**

- A. So what's in it for the Servant?
 - 1. The Servant, who in His death, offers Himself for sin?
 - 2. What does He gain?
 - a. What benefits does He acquire?
- B. **Isaiah 53:10** (NKJV) —
 - 1. 10 ... He shall see His seed,
 - 2. He shall prolong His days,
 - 3. And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.
- C. That's the Servant's reward
 - 1. He shall see His seed
 - a. Who is His seed?
 - b. You are His seed!
 - c. You are His offspring
 - d. You are His brothers and sisters
 - 2. You who believe in Him; who trust in Him alone for your salvation
 - a. You are His seed
 - 3. The Servant will receive a people for Himself
 - a. Remember John 17?
 - 4. **John 17:1-3** (NKJV) —
 - a. 1 ... Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,
 - b. 2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.
 - c. 3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.
 - 5. God gave authority to Jesus over all flesh
 - a. So Jesus would give eternal life
 - b. To whom?
 - c. To all those whom the Father has given to the Son
 - d. Why?
 - e. So they may know God and Jesus, the Son, sent by the Father
 - f. Sent as the sin offering

6. You – the church, believers – are the love gift of the Father to Jesus
- D. You are His reward!
 1. He shall see His seed
 2. And prolong His days
 - a. See His seed for all eternity to come
- E. Not only that, but He will sense the pleasure of the Lord
 1. One of my favorite movie scenes of all time – Chariots of Fire
 - a. Eric Liddell was challenged by his sister Jennie
 - b. “Why are you wasting your time running? You should be preaching.”
 - c. Answer: “God made me fast, and when I run I feel His pleasure”
 2. No one feels the pleasure of the Father more than the Son
 - a. “And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand”

VII. **Our Response to the Servant’s Offering**

- A. The Father offered His own Son as an offering for sin
 1. Your sin
 2. And the sin of everyone who would ever believe in Him
- B. Are you one of those believers?
 1. Will you not, at this moment, cast yourself on His mercy
 2. Receive Him to be the offering for your sin?
- C. And then be one of His seed
 1. And will see Him as He is
 2. And you will, like Jesus, feel the pleasure of the LORD