

September 30th, 2018
“It Was the Will of the Lord to Crush Him”
Isaiah 53:7-12

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

Sept 23 Amos 6-9	Sept 27 Habakkuk-Zeph.
Sept 24 Obadiah-Jonah	Sept 28 Haggai 1-2
Sept 25 Micah 1-7	Sept 29 Zechariah 1-7
Sept 26 Nahum 1-3	Sept 30 Zechariah 8-14

Lesson Introduction: We again turn our attention to the stunning realities of Isaiah 53 this week. Last week we considered how the Lord planned all along to glorify His Son through His death, and also spent time marveling at the fact that Christ’s death was necessary because of our sin, and that our sin was substituted for the righteousness of Christ through His death.

This week, we will turn our attention to the last few verses of Isaiah 53, as we consider **the submission of Christ to the will of His Father, the will of the Father to crush His Son, and the incredible victory won by Christ through His sufferings.**

Key Memory Verses: Isaiah 53:10

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE PASSAGE:

- Christ was submissive to His Father’s plan, even unto death (V. 7-9).
- Christ’s death was the will of the Father (V. 10)
- Christ is the victor over death, and offers intercession for the children of God (V. 1)

Isaiah 53: 7-12 (ESV)

7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.

8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people?

9 And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,

although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

10 Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him;
he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes an offering for guilt,
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
make many to be accounted righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out his soul to death
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Discussion Section 1: The Submission of Christ to the Will of His Father (V. 7-9)

-How do we see the humility of Jesus in these verses?

-What does Christ’s silence tell us about His mindset as He was headed to the cross?

-How does this example of silence in the face of suffering apply to our daily lives?

Note: Earlier in this passage, the absolute horror of the death of Christ is made clear. Not only was it physically torturous and humiliating, but far worse, it required Him to take on the sins of the world, experiencing the full wrath of God poured out on Him. Yet, amazingly, we see in these verses unfathomable humility, and submission to the Father’s will.

Christ continually made clear throughout His earthly ministry, that He came to be a humble servant (**Matthew 20:28, Mark 10:45, John 13:1-17, Philippians 2:5-11**). Our passage this week shows the stunning willingness Christ had to do the will of His Father. We see that, in the face of oppression and affliction, He **“opened not His mouth.”** Jesus could have easily called down more than 12 legions of angels (72,000) at once to free Him from the hands of His oppressors, but He was more concerned with fulfilling His Father’s plan (**Matthew 26:52-54**).

Simply put, Christ's mindset as He headed to the cross was **"not my will, but Yours, be done"** (Luke 22:42).

The perfect example of submission and humility shown by Christ as He faced execution should speak volumes to us as we consider our response to suffering. As we will see in a moment, this suffering was the will of God in the life of Jesus. He recognized that fact and accepted His suffering as a means to glorify His Father (John 17:1). So, too, as Christians, we suffer according to the will of God, and are called to continue on, humbly trusting in God as we serve Him (1 Peter 4:19). May we look to Christ as we face suffering, knowing that, just as God exalted Him and restored Him after His tribulation, He will do the same for us (1 Peter 5:6-11).

Discussion Section 2: The Will of the Father to Crush His Son (V. 10)

-What is your gut reaction to the statement, **"It was the will of the Lord to crush him"**?

-How were the justice and wrath of God satisfied by the death of Christ?

-How do we reconcile God's extreme wrath against sin with the fact that, **"God is love"** (1 John 4:8)?

-Ultimately, why was it God's will to crush His son?

Note: Verse 10 leads with a shocking statement: **"Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush Him."** This statement has been the topic of much controversy, and to some, the idea of the truth found in this verse is downright offensive. Proclaimed Christian, author William P. Young, has gone so far as to say that it's a lie that "the cross was God's idea," and that, if it was God's will to send His Son to the cross, then He is a "cosmic abuser... Cruel and monstrous." However, our text today states it clearly, and in Acts, we see that the early church did not find this fact offensive at all, but rather they claimed it as a concrete truth that brought them comfort and confidence in the Lord (Acts 4:23-30). Such a bold claim in Scripture deserves our careful attention. When we come across something that is difficult for us to comprehend, we ought to dive further into it in order to find the truth, rather than shrink back from it because it is difficult for us to fathom.

First, we must realize that God's willingness to crush His Son was out of a zeal for His own glory, and a zeal to exalt Christ above all men! Andrew M. Davis writes: **"The**

best explanation of (God being pleased to crush His Son) is Jesus's own attitude toward the cross in Hebrews 12:2. The delight of the Father in Isaiah 53:10 is the same joy of the son in Hebrews 12:2 – Not the cross itself, but the glory it would win for God and the salvation it would work of a multitude greater than anyone could count from every nation on earth (Revelation 7:9). The actual torture of Jesus was an agony beyond measure for the Father, as He showed by the darkening of the skies...and by shaking the ground when His son died. This was immeasurable pain, followed by infinite pleasure and joy." The picture painted by Davis is that the Father, in order that His glory would be revealed through triumphing once and for all over sin, willingly sent His beloved Son to the cross, with the certain intent of exalting Him, and giving Him a possession of His own (V. 12).

Secondly, it is vital to realize that wrath and love are not mutually exclusive. Matt Chandler, Pastor of The Village Church in Flower Mound, has often stated that "the flip side of love is wrath." When we love something dearly, we will also have great wrath against anything that stands against it. Think of a father or husband protecting his family. Because He loves them deeply, he has great wrath against anything that would threaten them. The same is true of God, who has such great love for His people that He **"demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us"** (Romans 5:8). The will of the Father to crush His Son was out of love for all His children.

Discussion Section 3: The Incredible Victory Won by Christ Through His Sufferings (V. 11-12)

-How was Christ rewarded for His endurance?

-What is His **"portion"** in V. 12?

-What does it mean that Christ **"makes intercession for the transgressors"**?

Note: We see here at the end of this glorious passage that Christ ultimately triumphed over sin and death, and that His Father exalted Him, and gave Him a people, a possession, for whom He would be intercessor and High Priest (Hebrews 7:25; 9:25, 1 Peter 2:9-10). How marvelous and stunning it is to know that Jesus pleads our case before the Father, as the One who has healed us by His wounds! Our Priest and Intercessor reigns victorious over sin and death, and in turn, so do we!

Lesson by Steven Richardson