



The Mar Thoma Church Diocese of North America & Europe Christian Education Forum

Lenten Meditations

WOUNDED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSION

Isaiah 53:1-12

This chapter tells us about the Story of the Suffering Servant of God. It presents the selfless love and vicarious sacrifice of the Servant. In the book of Isaiah we see four passages 42:1-4; 49:1-6; 50; 4-9 and 52:13 – 53:12 commonly called as the Servant Songs. These are about the Anointed one of Yahweh. There are different interpretations regarding the identity of the servant. The fourth Servant Song (52:13-53:12) clearly reveals that the Suffering Servant of God is Jesus Christ.

- 1. Humble, submissive Servant** (Verses 1-3) The servant under the care and plan of the Father God, but despised and rejected by the human community for whom he humbled himself.
- 2. Smitten not for his sins** (Verses 4-6) He was smitten not for his sins but bearing the responsibility of all of us who had gone astray from God's plan. Along with this we read from Isaiah 50:4-11 "I offered my back....spitting" (see also Matthew 27:27-30). Around us we see both victims and victimizers in every realm of life. In a world where the norm "Survival of the fittest" creates lot of competition, we may fall to either of these categories.
- 3. Silent on bearing all transgressions on Him.** (Verses 7-9) Though justice was taken away, he bears it. He was considered along with the wicked. While being persecuted Jesus was silent like a lamb to be slain. His act of silence was for the righteousness of many then and in the coming generations. All our suffering for the sake of God will produce many more witnesses in our generation and later.
- 4. Vindication after suffering. (Verses 10-12)** This is the most promising and beautiful part of any suffering by the innocent especially while standing with God's plan. After long suffering and being crushed, light shines upon us. Any suffering of the innocent and for the sake of God's will, surely will be vindicated. All wicked powers will be dethroned. V11 "After the suffering of his soul he will see the light of life". Jesus is vindicated to justify many.
Passion, Crucifixion and death of Jesus did not mark the end. He resurrected on the third day from the dead according to his Father's will. We live in the hope of the joy of resurrection of Jesus and not mourning his death.

Prayer: Almighty God help us to live under your plan and guidance in the midst of crushing experiences, which challenge us to go away from you. Give us spiritual strength to understand that all sufferings with you and for your sake will result in sharing your glory. **Amen.**

Rev. Regi Zacharia

"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed." Isaiah 53:5