

Because of Jesus

Sermon Study Guide

Isaiah 53 | Ephesians 1–2

Key Truth: Every spiritual blessing we possess is ours for one reason alone: **Because of Jesus.**

Introduction

Isaiah 53 paints one of the clearest Old Testament pictures of Jesus Christ. More than seven hundred years before His birth, Isaiah described the suffering, rejection, death, and ultimate victory of the promised Messiah.

This chapter does more than tell us what Jesus endured—it explains what His suffering accomplished.

Because Jesus was rejected, sinners can be accepted.
Because Jesus suffered judgment, believers receive mercy.
Because Jesus died, we can live.

Every blessing of salvation traces back to Him.

What This Message Teaches

This sermon answers one of life's greatest questions:

Why would a holy God receive sinful people?

The answer is never because of our goodness, worthiness, or religious efforts.

The answer is found in three simple words:

Because of Jesus.

Scripture References Used in This Message

Isaiah 53

- Isaiah 53:3
- Isaiah 53:5
- Isaiah 53:7–8

Matthew

- Matthew 5:9–12
- Matthew 7:7–8
- Matthew 8:11–12

Luke

- Luke 22:44

John

- John 1:11

Romans

- Romans 11:25

Ephesians

- Ephesians 1:3
- Ephesians 2:8
- Ephesians 2:12–19

Hebrews

- Hebrews 2:18
- Hebrews 4:16

1. Because of Jesus, We Have Been Brought Near to God

Read

Ephesians 2:12–13

Paul reminds the Gentile believers what life was like before Christ.

They were:

- Separate from Christ
- Excluded from Israel
- Strangers to God's covenant
- Without hope
- Without God

Spiritually speaking, this was every one of us.

Yet everything changed through Christ.

"But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."

Notice that we were not climbing toward God.

God came for us.

Jesus accomplished what sinners never could.

Additional Scriptures

- Romans 5:6–11
- Colossians 1:19–22
- 1 Peter 3:18

Reflection

- Do I still remember what Christ saved me from?
 - Does gratitude characterize my walk with God?
-

2. Because of Jesus, We Have Been Accepted

Read

Isaiah 53:3

Jesus was despised.

Rejected.

Ignored.

Forsaken.

The One perfectly worthy of honor experienced complete rejection.

Why?

So that those deserving rejection could become accepted by God.

This is the heart of the Gospel.

Additional Scriptures

- John 6:37
- Romans 15:7
- Ephesians 1:4–6

Reflection

Do I base my acceptance before God on my performance, or on Christ's finished work?

3. Because of Jesus, We Are Forgiven

Read

Isaiah 53:5

Our sins deserved judgment.

Instead, Christ took that judgment Himself.

Jesus became our substitute.

Every blow He endured points us to the seriousness of sin and the greatness of God's love.

Additional Scriptures

- Romans 3:21–26
- 2 Corinthians 5:21
- 1 Peter 2:24
- Colossians 2:13–14

Reflection

Am I living in the freedom Christ purchased, or am I still carrying guilt that Jesus already bore?

4. Because of Jesus, We Have Victory

Read

Isaiah 53:7–8

Jesus experienced injustice.

False accusations.

Cruel treatment.

Oppression.

Yet His suffering was not defeat.

The resurrection declared His victory over sin, death, Satan, and the grave.

Because we belong to Christ, suffering is never the final chapter.

Additional Scriptures

- John 16:33
- Romans 8:31–39
- 1 Corinthians 15:54–58
- Revelation 12:11

Reflection

How does Christ's victory help me endure present trials?

5. Because of Jesus, We Find Help in Our Suffering

Read

Isaiah 53:5

Luke 22:44

Hebrews 2:18

Hebrews 4:14–16

Jesus understands suffering—not merely because He is God who knows all things, but because He entered human suffering Himself.

He knows:

- Physical pain
- Emotional grief
- Rejection
- Loneliness
- Betrayal
- Temptation
- Exhaustion

He sympathizes with our weaknesses.

Because He suffered, we never suffer alone.

Additional Scriptures

- Psalm 34:18
- 2 Corinthians 1:3–5

- Revelation 21:3–5

Reflection

What burden do I need to bring confidently before the throne of grace?

Every Spiritual Blessing Is Found in Christ

Read Ephesians 1:3.

Paul says God has blessed believers with **every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ**.

Notice the repeated phrase throughout Ephesians:

- In Christ
- Through Christ
- By His blood
- Through Him

Everything God gives us comes through His Son.

We have:

- Acceptance
- Forgiveness
- Peace
- Reconciliation
- Adoption
- Eternal life
- Access to the Father
- The Holy Spirit
- Hope
- Grace
- Mercy

None of these blessings originate in us.

Every one of them is ours because of Jesus.

Questions for Personal Reflection

1. Which truth from Isaiah 53 encourages you the most today?
2. Why is it important to remember who we were before Christ?
3. Which blessing of salvation do you most often take for granted?
4. How does knowing Christ understands suffering change the way you pray?

5. Who in your life needs to hear the message that there is hope because of Jesus?

Family Discussion

- Why did Jesus have to suffer?
 - What does it mean that Jesus took our place?
 - Why can God forgive us without ignoring sin?
 - What blessings has Jesus given us that money can never buy?
 - How can we point someone to Jesus this week?
-

Memory Verse

Ephesians 1:3 (NASB95)

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ."

Closing Thought

The Christian life is not built upon what we have accomplished for God, but upon what Christ has accomplished for us.

When we ask...

- Why would God receive me?
- Why would He forgive me?
- Why would He hear my prayers?
- Why would He strengthen me?
- Why would He give me hope?

The answer never changes.

Because of Jesus.
