

# Be Found In Him

## Anthony Kim

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As a believer for 20 plus years of God opening my heart and keeping it opened to the gospel. Keeping my heart open to God's love and his relationship with me as a sinner saved by grace and by his mercy drawing me to Christ.

And I remember before I was a Christian hearing Isaiah 53 and I remember it had no personal significance to me. I remember that it felt so distant to me. It actually closed my heart more. Why would somebody endure such pain and suffering?

Because you see, the reason why I didn't get it was because I didn't acknowledge my sin. I didn't see the sinfulness of sin until God opened my heart to see my sin every before him and that I deserve death and hell and eternal punishment. Until that awakening, I was hopeless.

But God, who was rich in mercy, showed me Christ was the only way for my salvation from sin. That he was the only way to knowing God, really truly knowing God was the sacrifice that he paid for my sin. That with the pain that he endured and the love that was displayed on the cross.

And I'm praying that as I'm preaching this sermon that it has a profound effect like it did for me the day that I got saved, the day that I truly trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as my savior and lord. That you would be open tonight to that profound message that spoke to me when I was in my early 20s. That you can also be saved because it's the same message that God can use for you. So with that said, today is Good Friday.

Now Good Friday can be again good for those that know the Lord Jesus Christ. And what I mean by that is the focus of the cross is less about our actions, what we can do for God, but rather it is entirely on the completed work God has accomplished for us in Christ.

You see, we're assembled here this evening not for a lamentation over a tragedy but for admiration for a victory of a victory in the Lord Jesus Christ. It's not this message is not to stir your emotions but rather to strengthen your faith. Believer see the focus also is not our devotion for God but rather it rests on God's devotion on us.

The message of Isaiah 53 calls us to witness the suffering servant, namely the Lord Jesus Christ, God's chosen lamb, the ultimate sacrifice, who alone accomplishes salvation without any of our assistance.

This chapter emphasizes God's sovereign grace and his initiative with every action describing belonging to him that we belong to him Lord Jesus Christ independent of our own human effort. Good Friday reminds us as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ that the message of Isaiah is four-fold.

We're going to see four things in Isaiah. Number one, the steadfast and trustworthy nature of God's promises. Two, you're going to see and you're going to trust in God's love and have confidence in his work to ultimately set all things right. Number three, you can trust in God's salvation alone. And I skipped one, and that is that you can have confidence in God's plan. So, let's start with number one. We're going to go through them in three passages at a time. That is the cadence of the way Isaiah 53 is laid out. So the first one is we can trust in God's plan.

The cross reveals God's trustworthy plan. Verses 1 to 3. God announced the cross long before it happened. Isaiah wrote these words 700 years before the Lord Jesus was born. This is not a coincidence. This is not an impromptu rather it is God's predetermined plan.

We see this in Acts chapter 2 verse 23. You don't have to turn there but it reads him being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God ye have taken and by wicked hands have crucified and slain. You see, the Lord Jesus crucifixion was not a surprise, but rather a central part of God's predetermined plan and foreknowledge.

Despite this sovereign plan, the apostle Peter charges the audience in Acts two with responsibility for Jesus' death, which is carried out by wicked hands. That means lawless hands, namely the Romans. The Romans who crucified the Lord Jesus Christ. This passage shows the paradox that there is a God's plan and then human responsibility. And what is human's responsibility? Our sin. That's the only thing that we can contribute to this plan. That's only man's contribution. And then working together, God's plan and our responsibility for putting Christ on the cross, our sins work together for the ultimate act of salvation.

The servant, the suffering servant is rejected in verses 1 to 3. And let me go ahead and read that for you. Says, "Who hath believed our report and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant and as a root out of a dry ground and he hath no form nor comeliness. And when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men. A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief and we hid as it were our faces from him. He was despised and we esteemed him not."

He is God's chosen one, the Lord Jesus Christ. We see the words despised. Notice rejected and a man of sorrows. This is what the Lord Jesus Christ endured for our sins. But notice, his rejection does not derail God's plan. Human unbelief does not frustrate God's purposes. The world's blindness does not diminish God's glory. And this is why we can trust God's word. When God speaks, all creation bends to his voice. If God can orchestrate the cross across centuries, he can be trusted with the details of your life.

See, Good Friday is proof that God's promises never fail despite of how gruesome what the Lord Jesus Christ endured for us. That is verses 1 through three.

Let's look at verses 4 and six. Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. Yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted, but he was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned everyone to his own way and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

We see here as the cross reveals God's trustworthy love. God's trustworthy love. These verses here are the heart of the gospel. God lays our griefs. Notice our griefs and our sorrows on his only begotten son. Look at the words. Surely he hath borne. He carried. He was wounded. He was bruised. The emphasis here is unmistakable. That God does the saving. That God does the caring. God does the healing work.

The truth of the servant's suffering is introduced with certainty, acting as a substitute for his people. And without our support and even without our understanding of what his death meant, you see, God has to reveal these truths. It doesn't make sense to the human mind or even to the human heart, but is by God's spirit that we can truly understand the truth behind this text.

You see, the servant bore the painful results of our sin and its consequences. You see, our griefs and our sorrows was placed on the Lord Jesus Christ. Although he was perfectly sinless without sin, the suffering servant suffered would vividly illustrate the consequences of sin for all of fallen humanity.

We see as the ultimate source of this faithful servant, the Lord Jesus Christ, afflicted and bruised would be God himself in the flesh as he was smitten by God. You see that? You see, he was afflicted. The suffering servant was a result of human sins, not his own. This text stresses that his anguish was for our transgressions and our iniquities. His ordeal, the pain, the weight of our sin that was addressed here in this text is a reason why it is the core of all of human misery. All of sorrow and all of grief comes as a result of sin's consequences.

Isaiah strongly therefore emphasizes the severity of the punishment God inflicted upon the rejected one, the suffering servant for all of humanity's sins weighing upon his shoulders using terms like wounded and crushed and chastisement and stripes. These are not light words, brothers and sisters. These are weighty words. These are all of God's wrath in these few words.

What we're going to see here transitioning is from all of that weight of our sins. We're going to see now the substitution. It is God's idea, not ours. We're going to see that in this substitution, the substitutionary death of our Lord Jesus Christ is something that we could have never planned out because in our selfishness, we think we can do it. Humanity can solve the problem. You see, it had to be come from outside. This plan of salvation must have come from God and God alone.

Because you see in the text here verse six all we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned everyone to his own way. See our contribution is wandering. We want to run away from the Lord not run towards him. That is another result of sin. Run. Sin always wants to hide from God. It always wants to be in darkness. That's the only contribution we can ever give. All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned everyone to his own way. See, that's our problem. Our own way. Our own way is always wandering away from God. And then as a result, it continues, "And the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

That's God's contribution. We have our contribution and God's contribution. That's substitution the Lord hath laid on him. He We don't He doesn't deserve the punishment or sin. He doesn't deserve it. He's sinless. There was no reason for him to receive the punishment. But he did it willingly. He did it willingly. He laid it upon himself willingly. And he did it for us all. Not just some, but all. But us all.

The cross is the ultimate demonstration of God's love. You see, this text is similar to the language of Romans 5:8. But God commended, demonstrated his love toward us. And that while we're yet sinners, going astray, wandering away, Christ died for us. He laid the iniquity upon himself for all. Not when we are improved. Not when we would repent even. Not when we would seek after him, but while we are yet sinners. Christ died for us.

Your salvation is not fragile. Therefore, it's not something that is uncertain because it does not rest on your way. Amen. But it lays firmly on God's way, his way of dealing with salvation, coming from Christ and him alone.

Good Friday is a night God says, "You can trust my love for you." I hope you sense that in this text. I hope you sensed God's love for you as a sinner that your sins are laid upon him forever and ever and ever. That guilt of iniquity will never have to rest on you. Never. And that should bring a great sense of love for our Lord Jesus Christ and God.

Let's look at now verse 7 to 9. We're going to see the cross reveals God's trustworthy justice. We're going to see his justice. Let's look at verse seven now. He was oppressed and he was afflicted yet he opened not his mouth. He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter and as a sheep before his shearers is dumb. So he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment. And who shall declare his generation? For he was cut off out of the land of the living. For the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked and with the rich in his death. Because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

Jesus suffers silently. Think about that. When we suffer, we verbalize it, don't we? Even in the smallest suffering. But yet, what Jesus endured, it would make any person go mad. Yay, commit suicide. The amount of pain and suffering he endured for us. This is God. Only God and Jesus Christ can ever do something like this. Think about that. He suffered silently. Not because he is powerless. Oh, he is the God of the universe. It's not because he's powerless but rather he had purpose. He was to be the lamb to the slaughter. He was to be the lamb to the slaughter. And so as a lamb, a lamb does not open his mouth. He does not open his mouth. This is not weakness. It is obedience to the father's will perfectly. Perfectly with silence. He doesn't say anything about our sins. Think about that. The sins that were laid on him. Think about it. How he could have easily said, "This person sinned, he's guilty. This person sinned, he's guilty. This person sinned, he's guilty. This person sinned, he's guilty." And so on and so on and so on. Isn't that human nature? We call out guilt for guilt for what it is. And yet, he doesn't do that with any single one of us. He was silent because he took on the punishment for us.

God then satisfies his own justice with the willing silent lamb, the perfect lamb of God for the sacrifice. Here we're going to see the justice. Now sin must be punished. God does not sweep sin under the rug. He does not lower his standard. He satisfies his justice in his son.

Psalm 7:11 says this, "God judgeth the righteous and God is angry with the wicked every day." It's God. This verse in Psalm 7 highlights God's role as a just judge who feels daily indignation towards sin and unrepentant wickedness. Those who don't repent from their sin, emphasizing his holiness and necessity of repentance, turning away from sin. Because the verse 12 and 13 in Psalm 7 goes on and says, it warns us that if the wicked do not turn from their ways, God has prepared instruments of death and sharpening his sword. Language like verse 12 says this, he if he turn not, if the one that does not repent, he will wet his sword. He hath bent his bow and made it ready. Verse 13, he hath also prepared for him the instruments of death. He ordainth his arrows against the persecutors. Why did I put this verse in here? Because if I did not, you will not understand God's justice. You see, sin has to be punished. It has to be punished. It's either you allow and understand what God in Christ has done for you on the cross, paying for your punishment

for sin, or you take on sin in yourself and that leads to punishment forever and ever in hell. That's the point.

2 Corinthians 5:21 says this, "For he hath made him to be sin for us." That's the Lord Jesus Christ, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. God is both just and the justifier. Romans 3:26, to declare, I say at this time his righteousness, that he might be just and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Here in these two texts in 2 Corinthians and Romans 3:26, the key word there is righteousness. Righteousness is a state of both being made right with God through faith, namely in the Lord Jesus Christ, and there's a practical side to this that you start living a life of integrity, of holiness, and obedience to his words.

You see, now the word of God becomes a light unto your feet. That's what begins to happen. You start wanting to do what he says in his word. He changes your affections. You're no longer that person hiding or going in darkness, but rather coming to the light and listening to his words and obeying it. See, that's a father-child relationship, isn't it? And that's what he gives to us. He gives us the ability to be righteous, to be made right, to live a life of holiness. That marks us as brothers and sisters. And we have the same father that treats us the same way when it comes to being made right. He wants all of his children to be made right. And he wants all of his children to obey his words, namely his commands, precepts, and his promises.

Next, let's look at the burial of Jesus fulfilling prophecy. Look down in the text where it says, "He made his grave with the wicked and with the rich in his death because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth." This is recounting Joseph of Arimathea and his tomb. It's not an accident. It is prophecy fulfilled right here in the text. We see it in all four gospels the mention of this text that it was Joseph of Arimathea that would be the one that would give him his grave.

The application here is namely that you trust in God's justice that he is the ultimate judge. He is the just and the justifier. You see if God did not overlook sin at the cross he will not overlook sin in your life. Good Friday is a night. God says, "I will make all things right." Amen.

Let's continue now in verses 10 to 12. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him. He hath put him to grief. When thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed. He shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. Here we see the cross reveals God's trustworthy victory, his victory. It pleased the Lord to bruise him. This does not mean God delighted in the suffering. It means rather God delighted in the salvation. The suffering would accomplish the victory.

The cross is not defeat. It is triumph. It is triumph. Look at the words there where it says, "He shall see his seed. He shall prolong his days. The pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand." If you really look at this text, it's actually a lot to do with the resurrection. This is resurrection language here. So, we get a precursor to the resurrection of Christ. Good Friday already contains words that contends to resurrection Sunday, but we just get a preview here.

Continuing on, we see that Jesus accomplishes salvation completely. Completely. Look down in the text where it says here, "By his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many." He does not make salvation possible. He accomplishes it. He accomplishes it. He does not offer potential redemption. He secures eternal redemption.

You see, we can see that God exalts his son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Here, I would divide him a portion with the great. Philippians 2 echoes this part of the text in verses 9 through 11, which reads this. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow of the things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

Here we can trust in God's victory. He will be named amongst all. Everyone will know his name. Everyone know his name and everyone will bow down and everyone will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and will to the glory of God the father. You see the the cross is not the end of the story line. Good Friday is a night that God says I win. I win. He is the one that ultimately wins with the story. And because he wins, you win as a result if you are in Christ Jesus tonight.

I want to kind of get outside of Isaiah for just a moment and I want us to focus in in John 19:30. You can go ahead and turn there. John 19:30. Keep your place in Isaiah 53. Here we're going to see that the cross calls us to trust. It reads in John 19:30 this. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished." And he bowed his head and gave up the ghost.

See Jesus final cry, "It is finished." is something to meditate on. We can meditate on this right now because he didn't say not I am finished. That would mean that there is no victory. He didn't say not you must finish it. That would mean it's dependent on us. But it is finished. He accomplished the victory for us. That was God's plan for us. The work is complete. All of the debt that we deserve to pay is paid in full. The wrath of God is satisfied. He's no longer sharpening that sword for you. It's not for you anymore. The veil is torn. No more law. No more old covenant. No more sacrifices, but obedience. But obedience. The way has been open for us as believers. The truth and the life. Because it's God that drew us to him. Drew us to him. So, Good Friday is not a call in a way to

look back and say what you've done or what you're going to do, but rather it rest on his trusting to trust him more, to trust him more deeply. You see, we can trust more of God's words, can't we? There is still more commands that we ought to to obey. There are promises here that we have truly all not believed in if you would be honest with yourself. See, tonight's a really about honest assessment. It's a it's a good time to check our own hearts because you see all the words are there and he will help us through it. But we have to trust in his word and unless you know his word unless you know more and more of it. Your sanctification is potentially at a halt because Jesus said in John 17 that he prays for you that what? That you may be sanctified by what? His truth because his word is true. He sanctifies us by his word.

You see salvation at the beginning was yes finished but in our sanctification we still have a lot to grow to become more holy to trust more of his word in all of our lives in every area of our lives. Sorry. You see, that is something that we can meditate on now for a little bit. But meditate on that while you go.

But here, I want to put that aside and go back to now what we've been reading from Isaiah 53. And that's namely the thief on the cross. I want those that are in this room that are of God's sheep but are still lost. And you wonder why you're lost. Why? Why are you lost? Why haven't you trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ yet? Well, let me repeat the words of Luke 23:39 to verse 43. Just hear what the text says.

And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost thou not fear God? Seeing thou art in the same condemnation, and we indeed justly, for we see the due reward of our deeds. But this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." And Jesus said unto him, "Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise."

You see, the thief had no time to fix up his life. He had no way to perform any good works for him. He had no time to prove himself. He simply trusted in the crucified king. He did see him as a king. And Jesus said, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." Shout is a promise. Good Friday is the night God says, "Trust my son. Trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation." See, that's all it takes to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I want to point out the text. He said in verse 41, "And we indeed justly we deserve this condemnation. We deserve to pay for our sins, but receive the due reward of our deeds. But this man hath done nothing amiss. That's it." They he saw his sins and he he deserved to be punished. But then he he says and I I reward I receive this due this reward not really reward but this payment and he says this man hath done nothing amiss.

Do you see the Lord Jesus Christ doing nothing wrong tonight? He did nothing wrong. He did all that for you. We see the punishment. He received the cruelty of the of the cross. All the pain that he endured. He stayed silent for what you have committed unto him. He doesn't rebuke you. He doesn't call out your sin. But he does say that your sin is a thing that I paid for. Do you see that? Do you see that? And do you hear the Lord Jesus saying, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom?" Do you see that Jesus is a king? Because that word kingdom, it means he's king. Do you see him as the ruler of this world? Or how are you following someone else's rules? Because he wants you to follow him and him alone, his kingdom.

And then do you hear the words of Jesus saying unto you, verily I say unto you, today shalt thou be with me in paradise. Is that a promise that you can hear and receive and believe? This is language of trust. This is a language of trust. God's plan never fails. But will you fail him tonight? He's laid it out for you. God's love never lets go. God's justice never bends. God's victory never ends.

Behold the lamb of God which take away the sins of the world. Rest in his finished work. And here are some things to reflect on. This is for both believers and unbelievers.

You see, many of us in this room carry your own version of Friday. You either have the version of Good Friday or it's bad Friday for you. You either have grief and disappointment and anger or you have joy unspeakable. You have the love of God resting in your heart and you have life, eternal life.

This is the moment that we all can meet the Lord Jesus Christ where we are at. And don't rush to the past the weight of the cross to sit in it. Dwell upon what does the cross mean to you tonight? Because when people understand the depth of what Jesus carried, then the power of the resurrection has meaning. The depth of what Jesus carried for you, that is what becomes the thing that makes you ready for the power of the resurrection.

We're going to one day be resurrected and it's no longer going to be this body that you have. This body is is going to be put to the ground. Dust were recreated and dust will go back. There's going to be a new body, a resurrected body. And just like Jesus resurrected, we will have a new body. But for us, the resurrection of our bodies will be a glorified state for those who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. We will look like him face to face without sin. And we'll no longer grieve. Will no longer have tears because those grief and tears were result of sin. We no longer have sin. So we have nothing to grieve over. We have no longer tears to cry over for sin.

But unfortunately for those who will also be resurrected will be resurrected with curse. And you will still grieve and you will still cry out because sin will still remain and it will be forever and ever. That's the weight that was taken away from us on the cross for

believers or you still carry with you to the grave to hell and punishment for your sins. And that time it will be eternally settled. There will be no turning back, no change from those two points on.

Right now we're in this temporal world where we are going in one direction or the other. Now there might be some here that are here but are not here yet. I don't know who that is. Only you know. But if you heard this message tonight and it has done what God meant this message to do and you are the one that's unsure but now sure this report Isaiah 53 starts off with who hath believed our report just believe. Believe this report that I just gave. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. Amen. Let's pray.

Father, thank you so much for this wonderful report, this plan of salvation. Father, so thankful for the Lord Jesus Christ who is the person in your plan for our salvation because he is the only one that lived a sinless life in this life who lived perfectly obedient to you, followed every command that you gave to him here on earth and he was the perfect sacrifice for us on the cross. Thank you, Father, for sending your son, Jesus Christ, to this earth to do the one thing that we can never ever do. We can never ever do what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross. We thank you and we'll continue to thank you and give us give you the praise, give you all the glory that you deserve.

Help us, God, to truly take away from this message as believers this glorious plan that we have received and will continue to live not only in this life but in the life to come. I pray for those that this message has spoken to that is lost but may be found. I pray father that they would turn from feeling guilt to feeling no guilt because that is the result of having their sins paid fully on the cross. And hearing the words, "It is finished." Father, I pray and ask that you would bless to this end. Show them, Father, your revealed plan by your Holy Spirit and by your word. May it ground them to these truths, namely ground them in the love of the Lord Jesus Christ for them and their salvation. Blessed the son, Father, to everyone here tonight. Well, thank you, praise you, glorify you in Jesus name. Amen.