

**November 23, 2025**

## **Isaiah – Longing for Home – Isaiah 53**

### **The Surprising Rescue of the Suffering Servant**

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#### **Opening Thought**

We all respond to surprises differently. Isaiah 53 shows us the greatest surprise of all: God rescues His people not through a powerful conqueror but through a suffering servant.

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#### **1. The Context**

Isaiah 40–66 is written to a people in exile—discouraged, displaced, longing for home. Into this bleakness, God promises a Servant who will rescue in an unexpected way.

#### **Consider:**

- Why would a suffering servant feel surprising—or even disappointing—to people longing for deliverance?
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#### **2. The Unexpected Servant (Isaiah 52:13–15)**

God’s Servant will act wisely and be lifted up, but His appearance will shock the nations. The rescuer will not come with glory but with disfigurement.

#### **Questions:**

- What expectations of a rescuer would this overturn for Israel?
  - Why is it significant that He comes low rather than high?
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#### **3. The Servant’s Suffering (Isaiah 53:1–9)**

##### **Humble Beginning**

A “root out of dry ground”—ordinary, overlooked.

##### **Sorrowful Life**

A man of sorrows, familiar with grief.

##### **Substitutionary Pain**

He carries our griefs.

He is pierced for our transgressions.

He is crushed for our iniquities.

### Questions:

- How does this passage show Jesus taking our place?
  - Which phrase in verses 4–6 speaks most to your story right now?
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### 4. The Servant's Purpose & Victory (Isaiah 53:10–12)

It was God's will to crush Him—not out of cruelty, but to accomplish salvation. The Servant will see His offspring. He will divide the spoil. He will justify many.

#### Consider:

- How do these verses hold together both God's justice and His love?
  - What does it mean that His suffering has lasting, victorious results?
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### 5. Personal Reflection

- How does the suffering of Jesus still surprise you?
  - Where do you feel your own “exile”—your longing for home, healing, or hope?
  - How might this chapter shape your worship during Advent?
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### Key Truth

**Jesus rescues us not through strength but through sacrifice, not by avoiding suffering but by bearing ours. The surprising Servant is the Savior who came low to lift us home.**