



ISAIAH 53

We love the concept of the "Great Exchange" —the glorious truth that Jesus takes our filthy rags and gives us His perfect righteousness. It is a comforting, triumphant doctrine. But we rarely stop to calculate the sheer, agonizing cost required to make that exchange a reality. Salvation is entirely free to you and me, but it completely bankrupted heaven. In Isaiah 53, the prophet pulls back the curtain on the cross hundreds of years before the crucifixion, forcing us to stare directly at the brutal physical, emotional, and spiritual trauma the Son of God endured to purchase our peace.

As Pastor Steve walks us through this prophetic text, we are confronted with a Savior who was despised and rejected, a King who had no outward beauty to draw the crowds, and a Lamb who stood silently before His butchers. This study is not just an academic exercise in fulfilled prophecy; it is a solemn call to examine our own lives. If it pleased the Father to crush His only Son to cure the terminal disease of our sin, we cannot treat that grace lightly. We must sit down, count the cost, and boldly follow the One who paid it all.

Israel wanted a handsome, powerful warrior-king like Saul, but Jesus came with "no form or comeliness." How does our modern culture also try to mold Jesus into an image that fits earthly expectations of power and success? (OT: 1 Samuel 16:7 | NT: John 18:36)

Study Questions:

1. Isaiah asks, "Who has believed our report?" Pastor Steve noted that despite eyewitness accounts and fulfilled prophecy, the majority of the world still rejects Christ. Why is the human heart so naturally resistant to the true Gospel? (OT: Jeremiah 17:9 | NT: John 12:37-38)
2. Jesus fulfilled dozens of highly specific Old Testament prophecies during His execution. Make a list of these exact details (e.g., pierced hands/feet, casting lots, unbroken bones). How does the sheer mathematical impossibility of one man fulfilling this entire list strengthen your confidence in the Bible? (OT: Psalm 22:16-18 | NT: John 19:23-24)
3. The text says He has "borne our griefs and carried our sorrows." How does the doctrine of substitution change the way you handle your deepest regrets and distresses? (OT: Leviticus 16:22 | NT: 1 Peter 2:24)
4. Jesus was intimately "acquainted with grief." Why is it vital to remember that we do not pray to a distant, stoic God, but to a High Priest who has felt the crushing weight of human sorrow? (OT: Psalm 69:20 | NT: Hebrews 4:15)
5. The wrap-up referenced Luke 14, demanding that we "count the cost" of discipleship. Jesus paid everything for your salvation, but what is the daily cost you must pay to truly follow Him as Lord? (OT: Joshua 24:15 | NT: Luke 14:27-28)