

**Covered in the Dust of Jesus  
Isaiah 53:7-9**

**Jesus was silent and invites us into silence.**

<sup>7</sup> He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

**Text Message:**

- Let's look at the verse through two lenses. The first lens is how Jesus **fulfills** this, as Jesus was silent before:
  - 1) The high priest Caiaphas and council (Matthew 26:62-63).
  - 2) The chief priests and elders (Matthew 27:12).
  - 3) The Governor Pilate (Matthew 27:14; John 19:9).
  - 4) King Herod Antipas (Luke 23:9).
  - 5) Roman soldiers (1 Peter 2:21-23).
- The second lens is the lens of **fulfillment**, as Jesus models for us the way to follow, how to live, the path to **fulfillment**.
- In a sense, the word **fulfillment** means knowing Jesus and living out the salvation He purchased with His blood.
- Isn't it true in our lives that there were times when:  
We've said something when we should've been quiet!  
We've been quiet when we should've said something!
- Jesus invites us to follow Him in the discipline of silence.
- *Idea: Set aside time to fast noise and follow Jesus in silence.*

**Jesus was stricken and invites us into sacrifice.**

<sup>8</sup> By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?

**Text Message:**

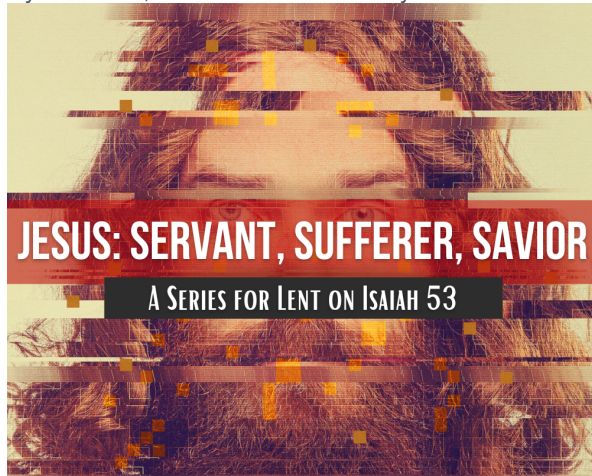
- Notice the key phrase, "his generation." Jesus **fulfills** these words using the key phrase "this generation," which appears eighteen times in the Gospels!
- Jesus described "this generation" as:
  - 1) "Evil" (Matthew 12:45; note context!).
  - 2) "Adulterous and sinful" (Mark 8:38).
  - 3) Liable for the blood of the prophets (Luke 11:50-51).
  - 4) Doomed (Matthew 23-24, Mark 13).
- Now notice the last part of Isaiah 53:8 beginning with the word "stricken." Jesus sacrificed for the sake of others and invites us to paradoxically find **fulfillment** through sacrifice!
- As a church, we must always remember we exist for others!  
As Jesus People, we must deny ourselves for others!

**Jesus was canceled and invites us into suffering.**

<sup>9</sup> And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

**Text Message:**

- One of Jesus' closest apostles tells how Jesus **fulfills** this: For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 1 Peter 2:21-22
- Jesus invites disciples to a life of **fulfillment**, not through ease and comfort but a willingness to be misunderstood, labeled, cancelled; even persecuted for the cause of Christ.
- One practical way of suffering is through fasting prayer.
- Some final thoughts on suffering:
  - 1) Our suffering must be like Jesus'- "no violence, no deceit."
  - 2) We do look for suffering, it will find us (Matthew 10:23).



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