

# Living in the Shadow of the Cross

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**Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12** *See, my servant will act wisely;  
he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.*

<sup>14</sup> *Just as there were many who were appalled at him—  
his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being  
and his form marred beyond human likeness —*

<sup>15</sup> *so he will sprinkle many nations,  
and kings will shut their mouths because of him.*

*For what they were not told, they will see,  
and what they have not heard, they will understand.*

<sup>1</sup> *Who has believed our message  
and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?*

<sup>2</sup> *He grew up before him like a tender shoot,  
and like a root out of dry ground.*

*He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.*

<sup>3</sup> *He was despised and rejected by mankind,  
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.  
Like one from whom people hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.*

<sup>4</sup> *Surely he took up our pain  
and bore our suffering,  
yet we considered him punished by God,  
stricken by him, and afflicted.*

<sup>5</sup> *But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.*

<sup>6</sup> *We all, like sheep, have gone astray,  
each of us has turned to our own way;  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.*

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

<sup>8</sup> *By oppression and judgment he was taken away.  
Yet who of his generation protested?  
For he was cut off from the land of the living;*

*for the transgression of my people he was punished.*

*<sup>9</sup> He was assigned a grave with the wicked,  
and with the rich in his death,  
though he had done no violence,  
nor was any deceit in his mouth.*

*<sup>10</sup> Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,  
and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin,  
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,  
and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.*

*<sup>11</sup> After he has suffered,  
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;  
by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many,  
and he will bear their iniquities.*

*<sup>12</sup> Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,  
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,  
because he poured out his life unto death,  
and was numbered with the transgressors.  
For he bore the sin of many,  
and made intercession for the transgressors.*

## **Introduction**

### **1. The Christian perspective**

- 1.1 Easter doesn't make sense
  - (a) Rabbits and chocolate eggs
  - (b) No story, meaning, reality
- 1.2 Communion celebrates ...
  - (a) Relationship, not religion or ritual
  - (b) The death, burial and resurrection of Christ

### **2. Proposition**

The Christian perspective places Christ on the cross and at the centre of life

## **The Meaning of the Cross**

### **1. Paradox: through death we live**

- 1.1 The shadow of the Cross
  - (a) Jesus' life was aimed at the cross
  - (b) His cry (John 19:30) – Victory in His death
- 1.2 Questions: Why? How is it possible? What does it mean?

### **2. Propitiation (Atoning sacrifice)**

- 2.1 Three key truths
  - (a) A sentence carried out
  - (b) A sacrifice offered
  - (c) A substitute for others
- 2.2 Two ideas
  - (a) The offence was removed – sin was cleansed
  - (b) Justice was satisfied

## **The Message of the Cross**

### **1. The gospel message**

- 1.1 The love of God (John 3:16; Rom. 5:5-8)
- 1.2 Centred on the Cross

### **2. The victory of the Cross: “It is finished”**

- 2.1 Our enemies overcome
  - (a) Sin and sinfulness
  - (b) Law and condemnation
  - (c) Satan (Col. 2:14-15)
- 2.2 Our embrace (Luke 9:23-25)

## **Conclusion**

- 1. Call to salvation**
- 2. Call to discipleship**

### **Ron's Quote:**

*“If you don't carry the cross,  
You will never wear the crown”*