

Big idea: The Bible at times says hard things, but hard things can become good things when we respond to the truth in faith and trust.

I. A look back...

- A. Jesus' TROUBLED soul
- B. Jesus' overriding DESIRE
- C. Jesus' declaration of VICTORY
- D. Jesus' death FORETOLD

II. The greatest question...

A. Confusion in the midst of CLARITY vs. 34-36

1. It STARTS with clarity v. 34a

2. It turns into CONFUSION v. 34b

3. Then back to CLARITY vs. 35-36

- A WONDERFUL word vs. 35-36a
 - It's a word PICTURE throughout Scripture
 - It's a word that REMINDS us of who Jesus is
 - It's a word with a CHALLENGE and a WARNING
 - It's a word with a PROMISE

- A DREADED word v. 36b

B. The response of UNBELIEF vs. 37-41

1. John's COMMENTARY v. 37

2. Isaiah's PROPHECY explains it vs. 38-41

- This was not a SURPRISE to God- chapter 53 (v. 38)

- This is a picture of divine JUDGMENT - chapter 6 (vs. 39-41)

3. A HARD truth

- The Bible clearly teaches God is SOVEREIGN and man is RESPONSIBLE

- God's judgment is not toward the INNOCENT but the GUILTY

- God's sovereignty is cause for HOPE

- John and PAUL agree

III. What we take away...

Sometimes the most dangerous place we can be is in church listening to the Word being taught. Oh God, give us ears to hear and hearts to believe and obey