

**M**ommy, why did Jesus have to die?  
**Isaiah Ch. 53**  
*As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see light and be satisfied; by His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities.*  
**Isaiah 53:11**

**Grasping the Weight of this Message**

- The text Isaiah 52:13-53:12
  - 52; 13-15. The servant will get the attention of the world. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 53:1-5. Make no mistake . . . He will suffer beyond our comprehension: \_\_\_\_\_
  - 53:6. OOPS, its all our fault. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 53:7-10. Don't flatter yourself, God planned this. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 53:11-12. The burden of knowledge which Jesus himself bore. \_\_\_\_\_
- The placement of this text.
  - Within the general text of Isaiah. \_\_\_\_\_
  - Within the framework of Israel's history. \_\_\_\_\_
  - Within the context of Judaism. \_\_\_\_\_
  - "Stumbling Block" theology. \_\_\_\_\_
- Its not "nice."
  - No "rosy" cross. \_\_\_\_\_
  - No "nice" Jesus. \_\_\_\_\_

**What is wrong with religion?**

- In the world today:
  - Righteous becomes self-righteous, \_\_\_\_\_
  - "Others are misinformed," \_\_\_\_\_
  - The God of our definition, \_\_\_\_\_
  - Blaming others, \_\_\_\_\_
  - Excluding others, \_\_\_\_\_
- Historically:
  - Nationalistic, exclusive, \_\_\_\_\_
  - Xenophobic, \_\_\_\_\_

- Making God look like us, \_\_\_\_\_
- The human condition in religion:
  - Arrogant, self-righteous, \_\_\_\_\_
  - Narcissistic, \_\_\_\_\_
  - Lying, deceptive, \_\_\_\_\_
  - Murderous, \_\_\_\_\_
- One of our worst habits: killing the \_\_\_\_\_.
- **The result: *humanity continually attempts to define "God" with its eyes toward the mirror. God, even within the framework of modern Christianity, is an extension of ourselves, and is perceived as a tool to be utilized in our personal behalf.***
  - **Matthew 7:1-5**; removing the beam from our own eye. \_\_\_\_\_
- **First things first**
  - What do we *really* seek first? \_\_\_\_\_
  - **Matthew 6:33**, What does it mean to seek His kingdom first? \_\_\_\_\_
    - What is your vision of God's kingdom? \_\_\_\_\_
    - Does it involve *now*? \_\_\_\_\_
- **The Divine Paradox**
  - God created us: \_\_\_\_\_
  - We exist in a flawed condition: \_\_\_\_\_
  - God tolerated humanity's failure: \_\_\_\_\_
  - He, the creator of the universe, humbled himself below the stature of his own creation in order to redeem it. \_\_\_\_\_
  - He has "given up" all demands but one: \_\_\_\_\_
  - He has promised us unbelievable blessing: \_\_\_\_\_

*Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak.*

*C.S. Lewis, The Weight of Glory*