

## Home Group Notes 2

### Born to Suffer

### Isaiah 53:1-12

How many times have you heard a parent say of their sick child, "I wish it had happened to me and not him/her?" Have you ever felt like that?

That's what God has done for us in Christ.

#### Read Isaiah 53:1-3

1. What is the answer to the question in vs 1 in the light of the following two verses? What is needed for true belief to occur?

*In vs 1b the 'Arm of the LORD,' is God Himself with His sleeves rolled up. So this suffering man is none other than the Lord Himself.*

2. In vs 2 & 3 what was the response to this 'man of suffering?' Why was there this response? (cf Matt 13:55)

*Jesus looked very ordinary to the human eye. Not special in any way. A man of suffering. Nothing but divine revelation can make the Servant known to us. His purpose in suffering is to draw us to Him. The following verses are that revelation from God.*

#### Read Isaiah 53:4-9

3. What is the cause of the the Servant's of suffering?
4. What was His attitude to the suffering He endured? vs 7. What was our attitude to His suffering? vs 4
5. Even though His suffering was for us, what part did we play in them?
6. What aspects of our need has the Servant dealt with in this suffering? vs 4 & 5. What does He win for us by His suffering? vs 5c & 5d
7. How is the Servant acting as a substitute for us? vs 5c & 6.

*The Servant suffers under our sin and under the Lord's hand. Our contribution? Nothing. He makes our burdens His. See Matt 8:17, Rev 21:4. Winning **peace** with God ("wholeness" in the NRSV) vs 5c and **healing** from our infirmities and sorrows vs 5d.*

8. How do we resemble straying sheep (vs 6) and who is responsible for this straying? Do we recognise the peril and seriousness of our condition?

#### Read Isaiah 53:10-12

9. Who becomes the beneficiaries (offspring/children) because of the Servant's sacrifice vs 10c?

*We stray like sheep but return as children.*

10. What is the outcome of the Servant's death vs 11? Why can the Servant achieve this?

*He shares with those who come to Him, His own perfect acceptability before God. He clothes them in His righteousness (cf 2 Cor 5:21, Gal 3:27, Eph 4:24, Rev 7:14)*

***Vs 12** is not clear in many translations. It should read, "I will allot to Him the **many** and the **strong** He will allocate as spoil". It cannot mean that he shares his spoil with the strong!*

11. Who are the "many" allotted to the Servant after the outpouring of Himself?

*The "strong" are overcome by the stronger here, so are spoil.*

#### Prayer Points

- ~ Pray with gratefulness for what the Lord has done willingly for us. His substitutionary sacrifice.
- ~ Thank Him for the completeness of His sacrifice for us.
- ~ Pray for those who are trying to make it on their own without reference to God at all.
- ~ Pray for opportunities to tell others of this Good News.
- ~ Pray for our brothers and sisters in hard places in the world.