

## Man of Sorrows; Isaiah 53:3-5

### I. Justice

- a. We all cry out for justice when we see horrible things happen
  - i. We even twist the idea of justice and come up with phrases like “social justice”
  - ii. Most of us want to see others do the right thing – at the cost of us doing what we want
  - iii. It is called selfishness and I believe that it is the root cause of all sin
- b. Now, “imagine if you will” (in my best Rod Serling voice) the One who created the entire universe, the One who created mankind, The King, being selfless
  - i. We create our image of god or gods and it is never pretty
  - ii. The Greek gods were selfish, always working angles to achieve their pleasure
  - iii. The Roman gods were selfish, always interfering in our lives for their pleasure
  - iv. All gods are the same that way because we created them
  - v. Christianity is the only religion whose King is a loving, selfless God who sacrificed Himself for His creation
- c. We don’t need justice, we need salvation
- d. 1 Peter 2:19–23 (ESV) <sup>19</sup> For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure; this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup> When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

### II. Sorrows

- a. Pain, full of pain (Isaiah 53:3); suffering <sup>1</sup>
- b. This year has brought all of us a lot of sorrows (pain and suffering)
  - i. For some, the past many years were full of pain and suffering
  - ii. Now, we do bring a lot of it on ourselves, but sometimes pain and suffering just happens
  - iii. Luke 13:1–5 (ESV) <sup>1</sup> There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? <sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

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<sup>1</sup> Ludwig Koehler et al., [\*The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament\*](#) (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1994–2000), 579.

iv. “Old Testament theology tended to relate the problems in life to personal sin; however, the Book of Job, Ps. 73, and Jesus in this passage (see also John 9) assert that is not always the case. It is hard, theologically, to know the reason for problems or persecutions in this world:

1. It could be punishment for personal sin and rebellion.
2. It could be the activity of personal evil.
3. It could be the results of living in a fallen world (statistical evil).
4. It could be an opportunity for spiritual growth.

Jesus is asking questions the Jewish hearers would relate to #1 and the traditional theology of the rabbis (Job). The presence of problems, persecutions, and hard times is not a sign of God’s wrath. However, the crucial issues relate to the lack of repentance from sin and faith in Jesus! Bad things happen! An added thought, these Galileans were in the temple area, but the temple (the great Jewish hope) could not save them.”<sup>2</sup>

- v. “In that deep human prejudice to the effect that great sufferers are receiving only what they deserve lies a germ of truth, namely, that all human sorrow and suffering derive, in the last analysis, from human sin; but it is a gross untruth that all disasters befalling men must be attributed to their immediate, specific sins. Many suffer through the sins of others, and some for no apparent reason at all.”<sup>3</sup>
- vi. We all have sorrows, pain, and suffering – the key is how do we respond to them

c. If Jesus is our example, let’s look at His response

- i. John 18:3–6 (ESV)<sup>3</sup> So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons.<sup>4</sup> Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?”<sup>5</sup> They answered him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.<sup>6</sup> When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground.
- ii. In Matthew 28:53 Jesus tells His apostles that He has an army of angels at His disposal to do as He wishes
- iii. John 18:7–11 (ESV)<sup>7</sup> So he asked them again, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.”<sup>8</sup> Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go.”<sup>9</sup> This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: “Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one.”<sup>10</sup> Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.)<sup>11</sup> So Jesus said to Peter,

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<sup>2</sup> Robert James Utley, *The Gospel according to Luke*, vol. Volume 3A, Study Guide Commentary Series (Marshall, TX: Bible Lessons International, 2004), Lk 13:2.

<sup>3</sup> Coffman, James Burton. "Commentary on [Luke 13:2](https://www.studydrive.org/commentaries/bcc/luke-13.html)". "Coffman Commentaries on the Old and New Testament". <https://www.studydrive.org/commentaries/bcc/luke-13.html>. Abilene Christian University Press, Abilene, Texas, USA. 1983-1999.

“Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

- d. Jesus’ response was selfless love for His creation – to accept the pain and suffering even though it was unjust
- e. Remember, Jesus’ focus was to get to the cross and everything He did was for that purpose
- f. We often act the opposite – we cry out for justice, but to the wrong people
  - i. We cry out to our government, our judicial branch, our law enforcement
  - ii. We should cry out to God – and then accept His answer
  - iii. And just as Jesus did, we should always try to aid those who are suffering in a selfless manner
  - iv. Even if it means using our own resources
  - v. Our sole focus should be to become more like Jesus, and everything we do should help achieve that purpose
- g. Just as Jesus was a ‘man of sorrows’ we too are people who endure much pain and suffering – we should respond to it in the same manner as Jesus

### III. Salvation

- a. Deliverance, perseverance from impending or imminent death
- b. Last week we talked about death being arrested – Jesus breaking the bonds of death, so we don’t experience (spiritual) death
- c. We often think of salvation as our goal – to be saved so we can live in eternity with the Father, Son, and Spirit (and of course all the other saints)
- d. But salvation is our gift, not our goal
  - i. Thinking of it as our goal puts us back into a selfish mindset – “I get salvation for myself”
  - ii. Realizing that it is our gift enables us to give (the Gospel) unselfishly to others as well
  - iii. This gift to others does not affect God’s gift to us – it actually enhances God’s gift to us; it helps us realize our purpose
  - iv. 1 Peter 2:9 (ESV) <sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
  - v. Ephesians 2:8–10 (ESV) <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
- e. This gift was given to us by Jesus’ selfless act of sacrifice
- f. God demanded Justice (it is His to demand) – there had to be an acceptable sacrifice for sin
- g. The blood of bulls and goats was not acceptable, Hebrews 10:4
- h. Hebrews 10:10 (ESV) <sup>10</sup> And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

- i. Hebrews 10:14 (ESV) <sup>14</sup> For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

IV. Suffering Servant

- a. Jesus suffered for our salvation
- b. We suffer because Jesus is our example
- c. We tell as many people as we can about the gift give to us by Jesus Christ