

Judgement and Restoration Isaiah 53

Some questions for you to consider..... Please be selective.

Take any thoughts/questions/comments about the service including the sermon. What was particularly encouraging or difficult?

At the time Isaiah was addressing this prophecy to Israel they were defeated and broken having become corrupt and decadent and neglected the responsibility of being a people that reflected the character of God to the nations. In what ways do you think we as Christians can fulfil Israel's calling to be a Nation of Priests and demonstrate God's character in our communities?

The main themes of Isaiah that collide in chapter 53 are that of all things being Judged and all things being restored. What does that tell us about God and where do we see these themes in our own lives and discipleship? Are we willing to let God name and cast out our sinfulness and do we trust him to keep restoring us?

V1 The Arm of the Lord is an image of God's power but the passage is all about suffering and weakness. How do we see the power of God revealed in the sufferings and humility of Christ?

If God's strength is made perfect in weakness does that affect the way we see and understanding being strong in our own lives?

In verses 2, 3 and 8 and 9 Isaiah describes God's servant (Jesus) as choosing to be despised, rejected and excluded and identifying with the sinners he came to save. When we know that Jesus chose to go to these extremes, and experience such rejection in pursuit of us how does that make us feel?

How does the heavy cost Jesus paid as depicted in these verses make us feel about our own value and how loved we are by God?

In verse 7, twice Isaiah says that through all of his sufferings Jesus did not open his mouth. In taking upon himself the cost of our transgressions Jesus chooses not to condemn us. Do we feel that complete freedom from condemnation in Christ?

Isaiah 53 is written as poetry and presents a visceral image. The crucifixion has to be felt as much as understood if it's going to really shape us. Have there been times when you've really felt God's judgement and unconditional love as revealed in the crucifixion and how has it shaped you?