

November 20, 2022
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
Isaiah's Messiah: What Child Is This?
Episode 1: The Message
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

Isaiah 53:1-3

1 Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
2 He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. 3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

- A key step in the development of Wesley's ministry was, like Whitefield, to travel and [preach outdoors](#).
- 250k miles or 10 times around the earth.
- Circuit Rider

Who is Isaiah?¹ CIRCUIT RIDER

- Isaiah was a prophet, whose name means **Yahweh is salvation**.
- Isaiah was a **preacher and prophet, mainly to the smaller kingdom of Judah**, the capital of which was Jerusalem, also called Zion.
- Isaiah **prophesied in the days of four kings of Judah**: Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah.
- Isaiah spoke eternal words and is **quoted more than fifty times in the New Testament**.

What is Isaiah 53 about? The Suffering Messiah

- **The Forbidden Chapter**: Isaiah 53 is never read aloud in Jewish synagogues.
 - Many Jewish scholars believe that Isaiah 53 is not talking about a coming Messiah individual, but rather the Jewish nation as a whole.

Isaiah 53 Opening Takeaway

- 1. Be the living gospel message. KNOW YOUR CIRCUIT and RIDE YOUR CIRCUIT**
- 2. The gospel is more grit than glamor. (SIMPLISTIC GOSPEL)**

¹ <https://www.gotquestions.org/life-Isaiah.html>

1. We are called to be the living gospel. (2 QUESTIONS)

Vs. 1 Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

- **OUR MESSAGE: Isaiah was a living gospel.**
 - **Romans 10:14** How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?
- **Isaiah was called to share the message of the Messiah, not ensure that they accepted it.**
 - **John 12:37-41** Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. ³⁸ This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet: “Lord, who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”.”
 - **Romans 10:20** And Isaiah boldly says, “I was found by those who did not seek me; I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me.”

2. The gospel is not glamorous.

- He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
 - **1 Corinthians 2:4-6** My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power.
 - **Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

Small Group Questions:

1. Isaiah was a living gospel. Every area of his life was steeped in proclaiming. How could you become more of a living gospel?
2. Do you feel comfortable sharing the message of salvation with others, or are you more reserved about it?
3. Isaiah says that Jesus’ physical appearance was plain and unappealing. Why do you think that was?
4. Isaiah 53:1 mentions that God reveals his arm to people. What do you think that means?
5. Pastor Adam stated that the gospel was more grit than glamor. Why would the gospel be considered “gritty”? See above verses.