

December 11, 2022
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
ISAIAH'S MESSIAH // Episode 4
Pastor Jim Smith

Isaiah 53:6-7

6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

- 1. The OT Isaiah (8th c BC) *grew* in grasping the depth of Messiah's gift meeting human need**
- 2. Isaiah 53 cites a needy, "sheepish" humanity – and the divine Lamb of God sacrificed for all**
- 3. The NT Gospels give the voice of Messiah Jesus: *why* he came and *how* to embrace new life**

The ancient Christian writer Jerome (342-420), translator of OT&NT into the Latin Vulgate and moved by these texts, said Isaiah was really "more an evangelist than a prophet."

1. Isaiah, Spirit-inspired, foretold God's loving provision for us in "Christmas" witness:

Isaiah 7:14 "The Lord will give you a sign: the virgin shall be with child, give birth to a son, and he will be called Immanuel – God with us..." **Miracle**

Isaiah 9:6 "Unto us a child is born, a son is given, the government will be on his shoulders: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" **Might**

Isaiah 42:1ff "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put My Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the peoples...he will not falter or be discouraged...I the Lord have called *you* in righteousness... Sing!" **Mission**

Isaiah 53:6-7 "All we like *sheep* have gone astray, each has turned to their own way – and the Lord laid on him the iniquity (*a-von*'= guilt, shame) of us all... He was led like a *lamb* to the slaughter..." (cf. Yom Kippur, Levit 16:1-34, Num 29:7-11) **Martyr**

From an old gospel song: "He paid a debt he did not owe,
I owed a debt I could not pay..."
From a 1970s praise chorus: "We are loved – the one who knows us best
loves us most..."

2. Isaiah 53:6 cites the one doctrine we need not prove: sin. “All we like sheep wander astray [ego paths, fixated, into thorns, over cliffs, becoming prey], we all want our own way...”

Ecclesiastes 7:29 – “I’ve found this: God made humanity upright – but people have sought many *chishshabon* devices/schemes/angles.” Created in God’s image, too often chasing idols.

Isaiah 53:7 cites God’s loving provision offering forgiveness/freedom from guilt, shame, fear

In the incarnation, the “Word made flesh” (John 1:14), “taking on the nature of a servant, being made in human likeness, humbling himself” (Phil. 2:5-11), Jesus identified with us as Lamb. On the cross he offered the perfect sacrifice for our sins (Hebrews 10).

At-one-ment!

3. Unwrapping the Gospel Gift: Jesus’ own voice details why he came

THE FATHER SENT ME (Jn 8:42, 20:21) mission
TO FULFILL THE OT LAW (Mt. 5:17) promise
TO BE THE LIGHT (Jn 12:46) character
TO CALL SINNERS/SEEK THE LOST (Mt 9:13, Lk 19:10) love
TO SERVE, A RANSOM FOR MANY (Mk 10:45) sacrifice
TO GIVE LIFE-FULNESS (Jn 10:10) supply
TO DESTROY DEVILISH WORK (I Jn3:8) victory
TO BRING A SWORD (Mt 10:34, Heb 4:12) surgery
TO PROCLAIM A YEAR OF THE LORD’S FAVOR (**Is. 61:1ff**, Lk 4:1-21)
anointing to heal & set free

PERSONAL/GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. How are you growing?
2. What issues need grace & truth?
3. When does Jesus’ life encourage you?
4. Which “Gospel Gifts” inform your **WWJD** mission?