

19. Did Jesus endure the cross voluntarily? (See John 10.17-18)  
(Remember, He endured it for your benefit.)

20. In view of what the Bible itself tells us, and what we have already seen in this study, should we be surprised if people find this teaching hard to accept? If you are in doubt look at 1 Corinthians 1.22-25.

### **The exalted Servant.**

21. Which of these verses speak about the exaltation of the Servant?  
(Hint : There is one at the beginning and one at the end.)

22. Do you think that the Ascension of Christ features prominently enough in the Christian year compared to Christmas and Easter?

*(If you have time in preparation why not look at the importance for us of Christ's exaltation in Ephesians 4.8 & 11-13, Romans 8.34, Colossians 3.1 and Hebrews 12.2.)*

### **Praise**

Either sing together a song of praise to Christ or read together what is sometimes called the song of Christ's glory – Philippians 2.5-11.

### **Prayer suggestions**

Pray for the preaching of the gospel and that we ourselves would have our boots on, ready to tell others about Jesus.

Pray that the Lord would open blind eyes and stubborn hearts so that people will believe the gospel and trust in the Christ.

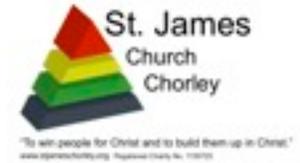
Pray for visitors coming to our Easter services and as these four passages from Isaiah are preached.

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## **The Servant Songs**

Lent Course 2013

### **4 : Isaiah 52.13 - 53.12**



*This passage is quoted in at least nine different places in the New Testament showing its importance in understanding the work of Christ, but there won't be time to look at them all. There is probably enough in this study to occupy several meetings.*

### **Read Isaiah 52.13-53.12**

1. In verse 15 who is said to benefit because of the Servant?  
Where have we seen this before in these four studies?

2. Before you look at question 4 below what do you think is answer to the question in verse 1 "who has believed our message?"

### **Read Romans 10.12-17.**

3. This is part of a longer argument over several chapters in Romans. How does Paul explain the prophecy of Isaiah and how, in verse 16, does he answer the question above?

4. What does Paul say about the messenger and his task?

5. Some of these verses featured on our studies on our Vision. How should what is said by Paul shape our work at St James'?

6. According to Paul, to whom should the gospel be preached?

7. What does Paul say about the way some will respond to the message? Does it surprise you that people do not believe the gospel?

8. Does the lack of response sometimes discourage you? If so, get your boots on (see Ephesians 6.15). Many will reject the gospel just as they rejected Jesus and also Paul's message, but some will respond.

### **The despised Servant.**

9. What is said in the Isaiah passage about how people would regard the Servant and their treatment of Him.

*(This aspect is not quoted in the New Testament but Christians see this as speaking of the disfigurement caused by Christ being beaten and crucified.)*

### **The suffering Servant.**

10. What else is said in the passage about the suffering of the Servant?

11. Look up a couple of the following passages to see how the words in Isaiah are speaking of Christ: Matthew 8.16-17, John 1.29, 36, Acts 8.27-35, Romans 4.23-25, 1 Peter 2.21-24.

### **Why the servant suffered (1):**

12. What does the passage in Isaiah tell us about who Christ (the Servant) suffered for?

13. In what way do these verses say that Christ was a substitute for us?

14. Some people find this idea of a substitute suffering or paying a penalty in place of another morally difficult. Why do you think this is and how would you explain it to someone?

15. Look again at the verses from the New Testament above and see what they say about how you have benefitted from the suffering of Christ. You may like to stop here and reflect silently on these verses giving thanks to God for what you have gained in Christ.

### **Why the servant suffered (2):**

16. What does the passage in Isaiah tell us about the purposes of God in the suffering of the Servant?

17. Again, this is an idea that some people find difficult. Why is it difficult and how might you explain it to someone?

18. Some modern writers have called the Bible's teaching at this point 'cosmic child abuse'. They say that a human father who treated his son like this would be locked up and therefore this teaching is a barrier to faith. But in what way does the relationship between the Father and the Son differ from that between a father and a son? (See for example John 10.30).