

July 19, 2020

## The Suffering Servant

By Michael Hickox

# Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street  
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## Services

### Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

### Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
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**Elders:** Mike Gerber, Travis Hall

**Deacons:** John Frost, Dave Goff,  
Roger Sholders

*Visitors are welcome*

*We offer Bible classes for all ages*

*We also offer in-home Bible studies*

We have Bible lessons on the radio  
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

Isaiah, who prophesied centuries before God the Son came to earth, gave numerous details of the coming Messiah that have been perfectly fulfilled in Jesus. Among Isaiah's messianic prophecies is the 53<sup>rd</sup> chapter and preceding verses, in which the Messiah is described as the LORD's servant who would suffer for us.

The passage begins with the words "**Behold, my servant will deal wisely**" (Isa. 52:13a). It is striking to see Deity referred to as "**my servant**." Yet, there has never been a greater example of servitude than the Son of God.

This is a key theme of **Isaiah 53**. Though the Son has existed from eternity and took part in creation (**John 1:1-3**), He "**emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, yes, the death of the cross**" (Phil. 2:7-8).

**Isaiah 52:13** goes on to say, "**He will be exalted and lifted up, and will be very high**." The perfect example of humility (**Phil. 2:3-8**) is also the perfect example of the humble being exalted (**Phil. 2:9-11**). Christ's exaltation was shown by His resurrection and ascension to the right hand of the Father (**1 Pet. 3:22**).

*Prior* to His ascension, though, Jesus faced intense rejection (**Isa. 53:1**).

His rejection is perhaps not surprising

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(Continued)

when we consider how “unimpressive” His life was from man’s perspective. This is the idea in the second part of **Isaiah 53:2**, which says, “**He has no good looks or majesty. When we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.**”

Jesus’ greatness was very different from what the world typically looks for. Moreover, by accepting the sufferings that were part of the Father’s will for Him, Jesus accepted being esteemed a “failure” by many.

These sufferings are further described in **verse 3**, which says “**He was despised and rejected by men, a man of suffering and acquainted with grief. He was despised as one from whom men hide their face; and we didn’t respect Him.**”

Astonishingly, the mistreatment Jesus faced was assumed to be a result of His own wrongdoing. **Isaiah 53:4** says, “**Surely He has borne our sickness and carried our suffering; yet we considered Him plagued, struck by God, and afflicted.**” Those who delivered Him up to be crucified (wrongly) treated it as punishment for His blasphemy (**Matt. 26:65-66**).

The *real* wrongdoing that necessitated Jesus’ going to the cross is brought out in **Isaiah 53:5**: **But He was pierced for our transgressions. He was crushed for our iniquities. The punishment that brought our peace was on Him; and by His wounds we are healed.** It was not *Christ’s* sin that prompted His crucifixion, but the sins

of people like you and me.

This thought is continued in **verse 6**, which says “**All we like sheep have gone astray. Everyone has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**”

Notice the word “*all*” at both the beginning and end of this verse. No matter how good we are from the world’s perspective, each of us who has reached a point of accountability before God *needs* the salvation Jesus’ death makes possible.

Jesus was aware of the sufferings He would have to face in order to offer us this gift. He had the power to avoid such hardships. Yet, He *willingly* and *meekly* endured them (**Isa. 53:7**). He endured severe *misjudgment* (**Isa. 53:8a**). He was characterized as a common criminal, though He never sinned (**verse 9**).

One of the most remarkable points concerning Jesus’ sufferings is brought out at the end of **Isaiah 53**. **Verse 12** says He “**made intercession for the transgressors.**” Jesus desired forgiveness for the very people who delivered Him up to die. As He was being crucified, He said, “**Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do**” (**Luke 23:34**).

He likewise desires forgiveness for each of *us*. Instead of harboring resentment against us for sinning and causing Him to have to go the cross, Jesus wants *each* of us to accept the gift He gave His life for.

## Area Gospel Meetings

### First City Church of Christ (Vincennes):

July 20-24 (with various speakers)

*M-F: 7:00 (Eastern time)*

### Yale church of Christ:

July 20-24 (with L.A. Stauffer)

*M-F: 7:00*

\*Our Gospel Meeting will be  
**August 9-14** with L.A. Stauffer\*

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## God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

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## Words to Consider

***"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body, and be thankful."***– Col. 3:15

## Prayer List

Holly G  
 Sandy S  
 Mabel H  
 Cheryl S  
 Norma C  
 Raymond & Maxine  
 Ken & Chris F  
 Brandon O's Grandmother (Lung Cancer)  
 Jeanette's Mother, Fontella  
 Jerry S (Prostate Cancer)  
 Donna G

## Daily Bible Reading

July 19 – 2 Kings 19-21; John 4:1-30  
 July 20 – 2 Kings 22-23; John 4:31-54  
 July 21 – 2 Kings 24-25; John 5:1-24  
 July 22 – 1 Chronicles 1-3; John 5:25-47  
 July 23 – 1 Chronicles 4-6; John 6:1-21  
 July 24 – 1 Chronicles 7-9; John 6:22-44  
 July 25 – 1 Chronicles 10-12; John 6:45-71

***"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God;"*** – Ephesians 6:17

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, July 19, 2020

Bible Study: Mike

Worship: Jeff

Evening: Mark

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Douglas

### **Clean Building**

Halls

### **Prepare Communion**

Halls

### **Upcoming Reminders**

*\*Our summer Gospel meeting is scheduled  
for August 9-14 with L.A. Stauffer*

### **Assignments**

Sunday, July 26, 2020

Reading: Dan D

Announcements: Dave

Table: Steve

Serve: Jeff

Travis

Darrell

Dan H

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Invitation: Larry

### **Anniversaries**

August 15 – Roger & Debbie

### **Birthdays**

August 4 – Steve

August 4 – Mabel

August 5 – Julzy

August 10 – Cheryl

August 11 – Jim

August 19 – Paula

August 24 – Debbie

August 26 – Olivia

August 31 – Stephanie