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Sermon Notes

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## **Jesus, the Suffering Servant: Part 2**

**Isaiah 53:4-53:9**

I hold in my hand a MIRACLE! It is a book that cannot be explained by science...

The fact of PREDICTIVE PROPHECY is one of the most amazing aspects

February or March of 1947; Bedouin shepherd boy named Muhammad searching for a lost goat 8 miles south of Jericho, on west side of the Dead Sea; Tosses a stone into a hole he notices on the side of a cliff; To his surprise, he hears the sound of shattering pottery; Manages to climb the cliff and enter the cave... there he sees an amazing sight; On the floor of the cave, several large jars containing leather scrolls wrapped in linen cloth... because the jars were completely sealed the scrolls were preserved in excellent condition; Took the scrolls to a Muslim sheikh in nearby Bethlehem; Sheikh couldn't read them & sent them to a Syrian monk; Eventually the largest of the scrolls was sold to a Muslim antiquities dealer; The original price was twenty pounds, but the dealer couldn't believe the scroll was that old... they settled on a sum of less than \$30

This was the Isaiah scroll from the Qumran community, the most significant of all the Dead Sea scrolls; William F. Albright dated the scroll at 125 B.C.

Carbon-14 dating has since dated the Isaiah scroll as at least as old as 230 BC, and perhaps as old as 350 BC. Since Isaiah 53 clearly describes the substitutionary death of Jesus and his resurrection, this qualifies as a miracle. Of course, actually, the prophecy was originally made 700 years before Jesus was born!

**THE REAL MIRACLE!** How salvation comes from such a holy God to such sinners as us!

God does some astonishing things in the Bible... like creation, Noah's worldwide flood, the amazing plagues on Egypt., the Red Sea crossing, raising dead people...

But by far the most amazing is this:

But nothing in all that our mighty God has ever done is as stunning as this: God justifies the ungodly by simple faith in Jesus Christ! This pure and perfect God, before whom holy angels cover their faces as they cry "Holy, holy, holy," a God who is so pure He cannot even look on evil, a God who dwells in unapproachable light and

in whom there is no darkness at all, a God who has a perfect hatred for evil in every way... this God loves and forgives wicked people if they just believe in Christ!

***Romans 4:5 However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.***

Did you get that? God JUSTIFIES (i.e. declares righteous in His sight) the WICKED... the wicked who TRUST IN HIM!

***Romans 5:6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.***

Now this is absolutely ASTONISHING! The normal way that people understand God is this: God punishes bad people and rewards good people... that's just what He does. But the gospel says that God declares guilty people INNOCENT... God treats the wicked as though they were righteous! More than that, God loves them and ADOPTS THEM as His sons and daughters, and takes them to live with Him forever in heaven. WICKED PEOPLE!

Friends... that is a stunner—actually it goes far enough to be seen as a SCANDAL! But if it were not so, every last one of us would be lost—we would sink under the fiery wrath of His justice and be condemned eternally!

Isaiah 53 is the clearest chapter in the Bible on the central mechanism of our salvation: SUBSTITUTIONARY ATONEMENT... the idea that our sin, our guilt, our wickedness can be transferred to a substitute, and His suffering can completely atone for it all!

This eternal gospel—this timeless message—of salvation through a substitute sent by God—was proclaimed with crystal clarity an amazing 700 years before Christ was born.

We began looking at this amazing chapter last week and now, we will continue

Outline:

Christ Repulsive, But Redemptive, then Exalted (52:13-15)

Christ the “Arm of the Lord,” But Human and Despised (53:1-3)

Christ Rejected, But Our Atoning Substitute (53:4-6)

Christ Innocent, But Willing to Be Slaughtered (53:7-9)

Christ Crushed So We Could Be Justified (53:10-12)

## I. Central Message of Isaiah 53: Substitutionary Atonement

### A. The Central Work of the “Servant of the Lord” Revealed: Atonement

***Isaiah 53:11 “By his knowledge, my righteous servant will justify many...”***

### B. The Substitutionary Atonement Clearly Unfolded (vs. 4-6)

***Isaiah 53:4-6 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup> We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.***

So also:

***Isaiah 53:8 “He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished.”***

So also:

***Isaiah 53:10 “It was the Lord’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin...”***

### C. The Possibility of a Transfer of Guilt (Leviticus 16)

N.T. Wright:

“If we use the language of the law-court, it makes no sense whatever to say that the judge imputes, imparts, bequeaths, conveys or otherwise transfers his righteousness to either the plaintiff or the defendant. Righteousness is not an object, a substance or a gas which can be passed across the courtroom. . . . “

But the transfer of guilt to a substitute is of the essence of the animal sacrificial system that God established, that was the core of the old covenant:

***Leviticus 16:21 “And Aaron (the high priest) shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins. And he shall put them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness...”***

This passage explains the significance of the priest putting his hands on the sacrifice... it symbolized a TRANSFER OF GUILT onto the substitute

The incredible good news of the gospel is that guilt CAN BE transferred to a substitute—Jesus Christ!!

#### D. Justification BY FAITH

***Isaiah 53:1 “Lord who has believed our message, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed.”***

1. A message is going out to the ends of the world... it is clearly discussed in Isaiah 52-53... kings are going to be TOLD about him; they will hear and understand what they cannot see
2. Jesus does not APPEAR like a Savior to us... He doesn't LOOK like the Arm of the Lord sent to save us... He has nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him... we will only see His as the Savior of the World BY FAITH... by believing in the proclaimed message about Jesus Christ
3. That will only happen if the Spirit of God reveals Jesus to your heart

***Isaiah 53:1 “Lord who has believed our message, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed.”***

Last time:

Christ exalted in the end... but first—totally degraded beyond human appearance; in this way he will SPRINKLE MANY NATIONS, and Kings will hear about Him

***Isaiah 52:13-15 See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. <sup>14</sup> Just as there were many who were appalled at him--his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness-- <sup>15</sup> so will he sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him. For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand.***

Christ grew up simply out of nothingness... a normal human being in appearance, nothing noteworthy; BUT DESPISED AND REJECTED... and A MAN OF SORROWS

***Isaiah 53:1-3 Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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.***

## II. Christ Rejected, But Our Atoning Substitute (53:4-6)

*Isaiah 53:4 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.*

### A. Christ Characterized by Amazing Sorrows... But They Were Not His Own!

1. The human eye cannot see clearly what is really going on here
2. The people who watched Jesus get arrested, flogged, and crucified all assumed that this was happening to Him because He was guilty of something
3. His bitterest enemies felt totally vindicated! Jesus said He was the Son of God... but here He was dying on a cross... so they considered this PROOF POSITIVE that He was a sinner—God had forsaken Him because He was wicked, a deceiver of the people
4. See how TOTALLY ALONE Jesus was... the verse divides into “HE” and “WE”

### B. Jesus Carries OUR Infirmities and Sorrows

1. sitting at the right hand of His heavenly Father in heaven, Jesus had known only PERFECT HAPPINESS
2. But He willingly entered an ocean of misery on earth... lepers whose skin was covered with bloody sores; paralyzed people whose legs lay limp and hadn't moved in years; people born blind who had never seen color; women bleeding for years and ceremonially unclean; disease and death running amok, unchallenged...
3. Beyond that was the crushing burden of a guilty conscience... of knowing the adultery you committed with your neighbor's wife that no one had yet discovered, but feeling the wrath of God bearing down on your soul... knowing you deserved eternal condemnation for your sins; every person who knew and understood the law was only crushed by it—their consciences testifying against them that they were sinful in the sight of a holy judge
4. This was the misery and sorrow and sin that Jesus entered into... a stinking swamp of defilement that He plunged headfirst into
5. These infirmities and sorrows were OURS, not His...
6. But He TOOK UP our infirmities and CARRIED our sorrows...
  - a. Picture a physical lifting action... like when He carried the cross

b. greater than when Samson tore loose the city gates of Gaza with its two posts, bar and all, and carried them to the top of the hill of Hebron...  
Samson was strong, Jesus was infinitely stronger

c. He took up these miseries FROM US... lifting them OFF OF US

C. We Misread His Sufferings

1. We CONSIDERD HIM STRICKEN BY GOD, SMITTEN, AFFLICTED

2. And so He was! But it was as our **SUBSTITUTE!**

D. The Cross Clearly Predicted AND Explained... in One Verse (vs. 5)

***Isaiah 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.***

1. Four words describe Jesus' death on the cross: PIERCED, CRUSHED, PUNISHED, WOUNDED

2. This is the "Suffering Servant"... something the Jewish nation could not accept; they stumbled over this stumbling stone; they expected a triumphant, world conquering hero (and so Jesus was and will be); but they did not understand God's righteous wrath against them for their sins

3. Simply put... a DEATH PENALTY had to be paid

a. This is the clear lesson of the sacrificial system: "All sin deserves the death penalty"

***Genesis 2:17 you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.***

***Ezekiel 18:4 ...the soul who sins shall die.***

***Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death***

b. Jesus paid the death penalty for His people... for our sins

c. See the clear assertion:

***Isaiah 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.***

We are the transgressors... we have committed iniquity... we are at war with God, and His enemies... and we are diseased and dying.

This is pure SUBSTITUTION language! HE... OUR/US

4. The MODE of death is clearly predicted... **“PIERCED”**

To wound fatally... a puncturing, inflicting a mortal wound

The PIERCING of Christ clearly predicted in three places...

*Psalm 22:16 ... they have pierced my hands and my feet.*

*Zechariah 12:10 They will look on me, the one they have pierced*

5. This amazing work is effective: He brings us PEACE and HEALING

a. Peace with God: **“The punishment that brought us peace was upon him...”**

*Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*

Peace in Hebrew is “shalom”: total fulfillment, personal well-being, peace of mind, satisfaction (as when a tired farmer looks at an excellent crop being gathered into the barn safely for the season... he sits down on the front porch with a glass of iced tea and smiles, at rest and at peace)... SHALOM! Jesus bought that for us WITH GOD

b. **“By his wounds, we are healed”**: Healing in body and soul... not the “health and wealth” approach which demands the final fruits of the glorious resurrection NOW... but this is wrong...

*Revelation 21:4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."*

*1 Corinthians 15:42-44 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; <sup>43</sup> it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; <sup>44</sup> it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.*

This is all BOUGHT and PAID FOR by the blood of Jesus Christ!!!

E. We, The Constantly Wandering Sheep Have Been Atoned For!!

*Isaiah 53:6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

1. This wandering into wickedness has ever characterized God’s sheep...

Robert Robinson, 1757, “Come Thou Fount...”

**“Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love...”**

2. We “go astray” through every yielding to temptation...
3. We have “turned to OUR OWN WAY”... we thought we knew best, we wanted to be our own rulers, our own kings and queens...
4. The wandering was not innocent, but deeply wicked... running from GOD
5. God took the whole record of our wandering and all the wrath it has earned and laid it all on Jesus... And God CRUSHED JESUS in our place

F. The Transfer of Guilt is Possible and Essential... and It Has Been Accomplished

1. N.T. Wright says the transfer makes no sense...
2. But it is the core of the gospel! God has transferred our wandering wickedness onto Jesus the substitute, and Jesus died the death penalty we deserved
3. Transfer is POSSIBLE: God can do it, for He is the King and can do whatever He wants; and no one who questions Him has a greater commitment to justice than He does
4. Transfer is ESSENTIAL: without this transfer, we will all go to hell!!
5. Transfer HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED: it is finished! Jesus took our guilt and died... the payment has been made!!

***John 19:30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.***

III. Christ Innocent, But Willing to Be Slaughtered (53:7-9)

***Isaiah 53:7 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 her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.***

A. Focus: Christ’s Willingness to Be Slaughtered

1. His suffering is made plain again: **OPPRESSED AND AFFLICTED**
  - a. The words speak of Christ being overpowered, humiliated, defiled... like the Jews were when the Egyptians enslaved them and used them ruthlessly
  - b. So we see this in Jesus being beaten to a bloody pulp, spat upon, mocked with the crown of thorns and purple robe, led through the public streets of Jerusalem to be screamed at by the crowd; stripped, nailed, lifted up, crucified... in agony...



- c. These words “oppressed and afflicted” line up with this... the SINGLE GREATEST DISPLAY OF HUMAN INJUSTICE in all of history... and yet AMAZINGLY the greatest DISPLAY OF GOD’S JUSTICE in all history... God put His commitment to justice on full display for all time and for all peoples to gaze at for eternity

***Romans 3:26 he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.***

In other words: GOD WOULD RATHER SLAUGHTER HIS OWN SON THAN ALLOW GUILTY SINNERS LIKE US INTO HEAVEN UNATONED FOR!!

2. YET IN ALL OF THIS HUMAN INJUSTICE... Jesus did not open His mouth; He remained silent, and accepted the punishment.

***Mark 14:60-61 Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" <sup>61</sup> But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.***

3. He did this as a display of the reality of the transfer of guilt... he acted as if He Himself were guilty; He took the abuse and punishment and humiliation and condemnation and mocking and pain and torment and death because that’s what we sinners TRULY DESERVED, and Jesus was “seen as guilty” (though He was truly innocent) and we are “seen as innocent” (though we are truly guilty)... He gets the treatment and trappings and emblems of guilt and condemnation as our substitute; we get the treatment and trappings and emblems of perfection because of His atonement... HE’S NOT PLAYING at being our substitute... HE REALLY WAS!! So His silence was like Job’s in the presence of God... as a guilty person who cannot answer the charge:

***Job 9:2-3 how can a mortal be righteous before God? <sup>3</sup> Though one wished to dispute with him, he could not answer him one time out of a thousand.***

***Job 40:3-5 Then Job answered the LORD: <sup>4</sup> "I am unworthy-- how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth. <sup>5</sup> I spoke once, but I have no answer-- twice, but I will say no more."***

B. YET He was Truly Innocent in Himself

***Isaiah 53:9 ... he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.***

1. Jesus’ sinlessness must be upheld... innocent in action, innocent in speech
2. A perfect man, completely sinless
3. Though Isaiah 53 does not clearly assert SINLESSNESS, yet verse 9 implies the oppression and affliction He was suffering was disconnected from His own life... He was not guilty of anything that deserved THIS

4. The rest of the Bible makes Jesus' sinlessness clear
  - a. The Passover Lamb had to be without blemish or defect (Exod. 12:5)
  - b. So Christ met this requirement

***1 Peter 1:18-19 the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.***

***1 Peter 2:22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."***

- c. Christ's sinlessness is essential for His substitutionary atonement... if He'd been a sinner in any way, He would merely be suffering for His own sin
- d. Christ's sinlessness was accomplished through astonishing strength in facing every temptation and conquering them all... a stronger warrior than Samson... every temptation that Satan brought to Jesus for thirty plus years lay dead at Jesus' feet

***Hebrews 4:15 [Jesus] has been tempted in every way, just as we are-- yet was without sin.***

C. Jesus Went WILLINGLY to the Cross

***Isaiah 53:7 ... 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. Unlike the animal, Jesus KNEW EXACTLY WHERE THEY WERE LEADING HIM
2. His eyes were wide open... He knew exactly what was going to happen

***John 18:3-4 So Judas came to the grove, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons. <sup>4</sup> Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out***

3. Jesus had already resolved in Gethsemane to drink this cup... He said "NOT MY WILL BUT YOURS BE DONE!!"
4. Jesus was no victim... He laid down His life willingly;

***John 10:18 No one takes my life from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.***

5. in this way eternally different from and superior to all the unwitting lambs and cows and bulls and goats and rams ever offered on an altar

D. Christ's Death Predicted

***Isaiah 53:8-9 By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. <sup>9</sup> He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death***

1. Jesus did not merely suffer torture... He DIED; verse 8: “cut off from the land of the living”
2. This was essential to our salvation; the wages of sin is DEATH; the soul who sins will DIE
3. Jesus paid the DEATH PENALTY for us. And Isaiah 53:8-9 makes it plain that He actually DIED
4. Verse 8 speaks of technical terms in the Hebrew, almost literally “from arrest and judgment” straight to death... no time in prison... Jesus went through the judicial process VERY QUICKLY... in one night
5. And when it was done, He was dead.
6. Verse 8 is MISTRANSLATED by NIV... not “who can speak of His descendants” but “As for His generation WHO CONSIDERED that He was cut off from the land of the living”... people of His own time did not MEDITATE UPON His death properly... they did not consider, they did not stop to think, they did not ponder it appropriately...
7. WE WILL RECTIFY that for all eternity... we will be CONSIDERING His death for all eternity, and thanking God for it

#### E. Jesus’ mysterious BURIAL

1. Specific words in Isaiah 52-53 can’t just be explained away
  - a. “sprinkle” in 52:15
  - b. “pierced” in s 53:5
  - c. “grave” and “rich” in 53:9

***Isaiah 53:9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.***

2. Those who try to make this chapter a metaphor for Israel’s suffering or apply it to some other person than Jesus can’t just wave their hands and make these specific words go away
3. The Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53 DIED and WAS BURIED in a rich man’s tomb

4. He was counted as wicked as He died... He was with the wicked in His death, though He was PURE and INNOCENT... to be counted a wicked man does not fit this person... so Jesus fulfilled this by being crucified with two other men, one on His right and one on His left... He was accounted guilty by the passersby as He died; He was treated like a criminal... **He was with the wicked in His death**
5. **AND He would have been buried with those two men... why not?** Why would the Romans make any distinction between Jesus and them? And if He'd been buried in a common grave with them, we would not have had the evidence of the EMPTY TOMB... Jesus was BURIED according to the Scripture! His BURIAL was carefully planned by God

*1 Corinthians 15:3-4 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> **that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures***

6. The burial was planned in these words... "WITH THE RICH..."
  - a. Fulfilled when two rich disciples, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, came and took charge of Jesus' dead body...
  - b. AMAZING... because these two men had been afraid to stand clearly with Jesus and identify themselves as His disciples... they were afraid of losing their position, their status, of being expelled from the synagogue... but when He was dead, and it seemed to many that all hope of His messiahship was GONE, that He was completely discredited, somehow they got courageous and asked Pilate for Jesus' body and then buried Him like a KING:

*John 19:38-42 ... a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. <sup>40</sup> Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen.*

7. This was VITAL to the physical evidence of the resurrection... evidence that John testified to plainly in the very next chapter of his Gospel:

*John 20:1-8 He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, <sup>7</sup> as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. <sup>8</sup> Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. [They still did not understand from Scripture that Christ had to rise from the dead]*

BUT John now understood FROM EVIDENCE... from the EMPTY TOMB of a rich man... that Jesus had to rise from the dead

8. God orchestrated this as a solid basis for the faith of all who would follow!!

#### IV. Christ Crushed So We Could Be Justified (53:10-12)

***Isaiah 53:10-12 Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. <sup>11</sup> After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. <sup>12</sup> Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.***

A. Next Time.

#### V. Applications

A. Marvel That Such a Holy God Could Work Salvation for Such Sinners as Us

1. Marvel at it! Stand amazed at it!
2. This is the most amazing thing our Holy God has ever done!
3. Never lose your amazement that God forgives sinners

B. Believe the Message of Substitutionary Atonement... it is TRUE and OUR ONLY HOPE

1. Do you feel the weight of your guilt?
2. Do you know yourself to be a sinner, condemned by the Law?
3. Do you know that God, in the Law, made a way for our sins to be forgiven?  
By substitutionary atonement? Not by animals, whose blood cannot atone for human sin... but by the blood of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ?
4. Do you see Him in your mind's eye... dead on the cross, though He was perfectly sinless?
5. Ponder this! Meditate on His death! And cast all your guilt and sin on Him by faith!
6. He was treated as wicked so you could be treated as innocent!
7. TRUST IN HIM!

C. Read this Chapter Line By Line... Faith Comes by Hearing this Word

1. If your faith is weak, FEED IT

2. Feed your faltering faith by feeding on the rich, nutritious feast of Isaiah 53
3. Feed yourself... take each phrase and go over it, word by word
4. Get strong in these words!

#### D. Repent of Your Proneness to Wander

1. We are still like sheep, going constantly astray...

***Isaiah 53:6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.***

2. Weep over that! Yearn to be free from it!
3. Distrust your “OWN WAY”

***Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.***

4. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you your wandering tendencies... how much you trust your OWN WAYS...
5. Plead with God to change your wandering heart
6. This is the essence of sanctification... but know, O Christian, that the Lord has ALREADY LAID ON JESUS ALL THE WANDERING YOU EVER HAVE DONE, ARE DOING, OR WILL DO!!

#### E. Meditate on the Specific Words of Predictive Prophecy

1. “Pierced” in verse 5
2. “Rich” “grave” in verse 9
3. See that God is predicting the future... our faith is unlike Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism... in which there are no such predictive prophecies
4. Even better than Judaism that cannot see Jesus of Nazareth in Isaiah 53
5. God has identified our Savior in these words!!