

Series: Isaiah
Title: Perfect Suffering
Text: Isaiah 53: 7-9
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Isaiah 53: 7: He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

Perfect Suffering is our subject. This is most sacred ground. It is dealing with the very heart and conscious of our Savior as he suffered for his people.

Proposition: Our perfect patience and meekness is not by us, it is by the perfect suffering of Christ Jesus, by whose obedience his people are made righteous through faith in him.

I. FIRST, THE SUFFERINGS OF THE GODMAN WERE LIKE NO OTHER.

Depraved Sinners

In one regard, he suffered at the hands of depraved sinners. We see here what the depraved heart is and does.

First, we oppressed him—**V7: He was oppressed**—It means “to smite, to drive, to exact, to rule over as a taskmaster.”

- Because Christ declared he is God.
- Because Christ declared he came to fulfill the law and the prophets for his people.
- Because Christ declared that no man can come to the Father but by him
- Because he did not conform to the vain traditions of religious men

We, depraved sinners, oppressed the Prince of Life: we arrested him, smote him, and crucified him. That is the depravity of our hearts.

Secondly, we dealt unjustly—**v8: He was taken from prison and from judgment:** Acts 8:33: “In his humiliation his judgment was taken away:” When the God of all justice allowed himself to be tried at the hands of man, we took all justice away from him. Both the Jewish trial and the Roman trial was totally unjust. That is the depravity of our hearts—unjust

Thirdly, we dealt wickedly in self-righteousness—**V9: And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death;** The Prince of life came to freely give to his people the unsearchable riches of his grace. Yet, we were so wicked and so rich in our estimation of ourselves that we crucified the Prince of life. That is the depravity of our hearts.

Fourthly, we did all this because we hated God, that he was truly holy and righteous—**v9:...because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.**

John 15:22: If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin.

Application: These 4 things is all that come from our nature by our first birth in Adam: oppression, injustice, wicked self-righteousness and enmity against God. We poured contempt upon Christ’s offices.

- **His kingly office**, when we crowned him with thorns, put a purple robe on him, and bowed the knee mocking, “Hail king of the Jews.”
- **His prophetic office**, when we blind-folded him and said, “prophesy, who is it that smote thee.”
- **His priestly office**, when we reviled him on the cross, saying, “He saved others, himself he cannot save.”

Then we killed the Prince of Life (Acts 3: 15)

Application: Without being created anew in the true holiness and righteousness of Christ dwelling in our hearts, without Christ revealing himself to us effectually by his power, **THAT IS OUR RELIGION!** Those are what we are in our flesh, still. It is what we do when we lose patience, revile and threaten those who revile us.

II. THEREFORE, FOR GOD’S ELECT, THE PERFECT LAMB OF GOD HAD TO SUFFER IN PERFECT OBEDIENCE TO GOD THE FATHER.

Christ’s Willing Submission

He submitted himself willingly—**V7: and he was afflicted**,--it means he answered it all by submitting himself to it all. While our Substitute was oppressed unjustly by wicked men—**v10: Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief:** This was his Father’s will. Christ Jesus entered into covenant with God our Father to satisfy divine justice for his people in this one way on the cross.

The worst of his oppression was not at the hands of men it was bearing our sin—**v6:...the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.** And his oppression was bearing justice at the hands of God—**v8:...for the transgression of my people was he stricken.**

But our Savior willingly submitted himself to the affliction—**v9: HE made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death;** Because he was the only fit one who could do so—**v9:...because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.** No man took his life. He was in complete control the whole time. He said,

John 10: 18: No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself.

Necessity of Faith

Now get this. This is important. It was A MUST that while he bore our sins in his own body and while he bore the stroke of justice, he must at the same time offer his soul unto God in perfect holy obedience—**V10: Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.**

Christ was given a body to bear our sins in his body and be smitten for them—he had to do so for God to be just and the Justifier. And he had to do so, in perfect holy faith and fidelity unto God in his heart. He did!

Application: His faith and patience of heart unto death was as necessary to fulfilling the law, to making his people holy and righteous, as his bearing our sins and stripes in his own body on the tree. Christ is our Sanctification and Righteousness! We are made holy by Christ our Sanctification being formed in us and made righteous through faith in him who is our Righteousness.

III. NOW, BEHOLD HOW OUR SAVIOR SUFFERED UNTO DEATH IN PERFECT FAITHFUL PATIENCE AND MEEKNESS UNTO GOD--v7: He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, He bore tremendous smittings to his body. (Is 52: 12) He suffered the vilest reproaches that Satan and wicked men could spew against him. He bore even more in his soul suffering at the hand of God and justice—**V7:...yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.**

According to the Will of God

Though Christ spoke seven excellent words from the cross, yet he never opened his mouth to revile or threaten,

1 Peter 2:22: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: who when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered he threatened not,

Our suffering is given to us according to the will of God—1 Peter 4:19:...”**them that suffer according to the will of God,**”...

Application: Brethren, scripture says, “if need be”, God willingly gives his people various burdens to bear to try our faith. Some are heavy, others lighter; some we bear a little while, others all our days; some spiritual, others touch our bodies. But brethren all our sufferings are light compared to what Christ suffered in our place. He suffered all these and much more than we can imagine or comprehend!

Yet, Christ’s patience was exactly according to the will of God: God willed everything he bore and Christ bore it all exactly as God required it to be borne.

First, Christ’s patience was according to God’s will in his willingness to receive it. The troubles, the deaths, laid on Christ in our room and stead, were innumerable. Psalm 40:12: Innumerable evils have compassed me about. Yet, he willingly patiently received them all.

Application: When it comes to our patience, we often think, “Oh, if it were just some other trouble than this, I could bear it.” But Christ received all the trouble God the Father laid on him and he opened not his mouth.

Also, Christ’s patience was according to the will of God in his ability to exercise patience through all his sufferings unto the end—

James 1: 2: My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3: Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4: But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Application: When we suffer, we usually find ourselves murmuring. We want it to be over. We do not want to wait on God. Our patience, like our faith, is anything but perfect.

Christ’s patience, like his faith, was perfect—without any opposite of patience. He opened not his mouth because his heart was in perfect submission to the Father. In Christ alone do we see “patience have her perfect work, [he was] perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”

Application: So brethren, when we lose patience, behold our perfect Righteousness, our Advocate with the Father, who stands before God as the Propitiation for our sins.

Christ’s Heart

Christ’s suffering in perfect patience proves that our High Priest is holy and righteous through and through. Though he bore our sins in his own body on the tree and was justly “wounded for our transgressions, [and] bruised for our iniquities:” (Is 53: 5) In his soul our High Priest remained “holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners.” (Heb 7: 26) Though he bore our spots in his own body on the tree, YET in his soul, “through the eternal Spirit [he] offered himself without spot to God.” (Heb 9: 14);

Application: This is why when Christ is formed in us, in the new man our “conscious is purged from dead works to serve the living God.” Christ is made unto us Righteousness and Sanctification.

Furthermore, his patience proves he is Wisdom—

James 3: 13: Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

Proverbs 17:27: He that hath knowledge spareth his words: *and* a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.

We behold in Christ preeminent meekness and patience of wisdom, preeminent sparing of his words—**he opened not his mouth**, all in the face of preeminent suffering, therefore in Christ we behold preeminent Wisdom.

Colossians 2:3: In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Application: This is why when Christ is formed in our newly created hearts, Christ “is made unto us Wisdom.” We cease looking to our knowledge to justify us and we rest in Christ of whom it is said, in **verse 11**, “**by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many;**”

Also, Christ’s patience proves he is the Faithful One— **he committed himself to him that judeth righteously.**

Isaiah 50: 5: The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back. 6: I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. 7: For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed. 8: *He is* near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who *is* mine adversary? let him come near to me. 9: Behold, the Lord GOD will help me; who *is* he *that* shall condemn me? lo, they all shall wax old as a garment; the moth shall eat them up.

Application: The righteousness of God is manifest by Christ’s own faithfulness—“**the faith of Christ.**” This is why when Christ the Faithful reveals he is our Righteousness and gives us faith—“**from Faith to faith**”—we cease trusting in our faith and true faith rests in the Faithful One.

Galatians 2:16: Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Php 3:9: And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

III. LASTLY TURN TO 1 PETER 2. HERE THE HOLY SPIRIT TELLS US TO FOLLOW CHRIST OUR EXAMPLE. Peter tells us to submit to rulers and masters and so on—**1 Peter 2: 18...not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. 19: For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. 20: For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. 21: For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:**

First, make sure our suffering is not due to our faults—**1 Peter 2: 22: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:** If we be buffeted for our faults we ought to take it patiently. But if we do not want to be reviled because of our faults then try not to give men any reason to revile you.

Secondly, when you do suffer for doing well, revile not and threaten not—**1 Peter 2: 23: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not;** Brethren, the strongest answer ever given came

without words. Christ had power to summons more than twelve legions of angels. But the greatest power ever displayed was not in exercising his Omnipotence. It was displayed by him opening not his mouth.

Application: When folks say mean things, we don't have to open our mouth.

Instead, commit all to Christ. **1 Peter 2: 23:...but committed *himself* to him that judgeth righteously:** The greatest power ever was displayed by committing all to the Father, by submitting to be crucified

- By that Christ fulfilled the law
- He took away the sin of his people
- He justified us, making us righteous
- He conquered Satan, death and hell for God's elect.
- Christ's meekness triumphed over the injuries of his enemies, rather than his injuries triumphing over him.

Now Christ is risen and has all power as the GodMan and all judgment is committed to him—so **commit yourself and your cause to him who judges righteously.**

Application: He knows everything you feel, everything you suffer. Remember, Christ glorified God and saved his people by humbling himself under God's mighty hand. Therefore, in due time, 'wherefore God also hath highly exalted him.

1 Peter 5: 6: Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:
7: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Application: Brethren, when we are strong enough to defend ourselves we are weakest. When we are so weak that Christ is our only strength then we are strong. Then the power of Christ rests on you and you find that his grace is sufficient. Here is our only constraint to believe him, to cast all our care into his hand, and to wait on him to exalt us in due time.

1 Peter 2: 24: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. 25: For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

Amen!