

BIBLE TEACHING AND WORSHIP GUIDE



FOR THE HOME-BASED CHURCH

Produced Weekly

Healed by His Wounds
Isaiah 53:1-12

Copy this sheet for the Gathering Time, Bible Study, and Worship Experience leaders for the next meeting of the church.

Leaders' Responsibilities:

Important: Each person who will be leading one of the three parts of a session during a series of sessions needs to have access to the "Introduction" article found at the beginning of each series (Bible Teaching #....). The weekly session "Background" located in the Teacher Preparation is much more specific to that day's study.

1. **The Gathering Time Leader** will gather all of the people together and help them prepare their minds and hearts for a wonderful worship experience before God. His/her responsibility is to introduce the congregation to the theme (content) and the Scripture that will be central to their worship experience for the day.

2. **The Bible Study Leader** will then help the people understand what the Scriptures have to say and teach us about the content of the study for the day. He/she will guide the people to make a general application of the study (ie: How does this Bible study apply to people today?)

3. **The Worship Time Leader** has the responsibility to use the theme and Scriptures to guide the congregation to make personal commitments to God's will for each one in regard to the study for the day. He/she will use others to lead in the music, taking the offering, ministry moment comments, and other activities and parts of the **Worship Time** that can aid in participatory worship.

Prior to this Coming Session:

Gathering Time Leader:

Bible Study Leader:

Worship Time Leader:

Music Sources:

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” #154, *The Worship Hymnal*. CCLI #27714 Public Domain.

“No One Understands like Jesus” #155, *The Worship Hymnal*. CCLI #2791.

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” #176. Public Domain.

1

Copy this section for the Gathering Time leader.

Gathering Time: (Suggested time: 15 minutes)

Healed by His Wounds

Focal Text

Isaiah 53:1-12

Background Text

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

Main Idea

God through Christ, the Suffering Servant, offers salvation to all people.

Question to Explore

How does God reverse our human evaluations?

Teaching Aim

To lead the class to respond in faith to God's gracious offer of salvation in Christ, the Suffering Servant.

First thoughts:

We will consider Christ's suffering for our sins in today's lessons. We have looked forward to the coming of Christ. Today we will consider the Easter story – his death for our sins. It is that death and the suffering it entails which gives our theme for the day – Healed by His Wounds. We don't like to think about that aspect of the coming of Christ. However, as Isaiah has pointed out in all of his messages, God is in control. He was in control in the death of Christ as well. Because of that, Christ Himself experienced joy in his sacrifice.

Closing the Gathering Time:

Take time at this point to mention items of prayer concern for the church, announcements of ministry or activities, and anything else that needs to be shared with or by the congregation. Pray for these needs. Remember to praise God in prayer.

Break time! Take five minutes between sessions. Encourage children to use the washroom so that they won't need to leave during the Bible Study time.

Distribute youth/adult Bible study outlines or paper for note-taking, if available.

Also hand out the activity sheets for preschool and younger children to use during Bible Study and/or worship.

2

Copy this section for the Bible Study leader.

Note to the Bible Study Leader: Suggested teaching time for the Bible study should be about 35 minutes. Use the “Teacher Preparation” for your personal study during the week before the session. Use the “Bible Study Plan” for the actual session.

Teacher Preparation

Healed by His Wounds

Focal Text

Isaiah 53:1-12

Background Text

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

Main Idea

God through Christ, the Suffering Servant, offers salvation to all people.

Question to Explore

How does God reverse our human evaluations?

Teaching Aim

To lead the class to respond in faith to God’s gracious offer of salvation in Christ, the Suffering Servant.

Introduction to your personal study:

Isaiah’s prophetic words about the Messiah in Chapter 52:13-15 and Chapter 53:1-12 were fulfilled in the life of Jesus. He did suffer humiliation; he was despised and rejected by the very people who had so longed for his coming. He suffered and died for the sins of the world. He continues his ministry of intercession for us. Thus, the Christmas story always looks forward to the Easter story. The song written by Charles Wesley years ago expresses the anticipation and the reality.

Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;

Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child, and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise in us Thy glorious throne.
(Public Domain)

Background:

Please ask for and read the information contained in the “**Introduction**” article found at the beginning of this series of Bible Study and Worship sessions (Bible Teaching #.....). The person who downloaded this session should have that material for you, as well.

The following outline will guide the study:

I. From Humiliation to Exaltation (Isaiah 52:13-15)

II. Rejection of the Servant (Isaiah 53: 1-3)

- a. Who has believed? (v.1)
- b. A root out of dry ground (v.2)
- c. Despised and rejected (v.3)

III. The Suffering of the Servant for Us (Isaiah 53:4-6)

- a. The cause of His suffering (v.4)
- b. With His stripes we are healed (v.5)
- c. Our spiritual plight (v.6)

IV. The Servant's Unjust Death (Isaiah 53:7-9)

V. God's Will and the Servant's Victory (Isaiah 53:10-12)

- a. The fulfillment of God's will (v.10)
- b. Justification (v.11)
- c. Intercessor for sinners (v.12)

(Broadman Comments, 1995-96, *52 Ready-To-Teach Bible Study Lessons*, p. 163.)

Focusing on the Meaning:

Isaiah 52: 13-15; 53:1-12

13He will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.

***14Just 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***

***15So 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.***

***1Who has believed our message
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed***

***2He 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.***

***3He 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.***

***4Surely he took up our infirmities
And carried our sorrows,
Yet we considered him stricken by God,
Smitten by him and afflicted.***

***5But 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.***

***6We 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.***

***7He 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.***

***8By 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.***

***9He 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.***

***10Yet 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.***

***11After 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.***

***12Therefore 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 intercessions for the transgressors.***

This text is the most familiar servant passage to us. It is rightly considered to be a prophetic announcement of Christ and his redemptive ministry. These verses are quoted in the New Testament on various occasions (Romans 15:21; John 12:38; Romans 10:16; Matthew 8:17; Acts 8:32-33; 1 Peter 2:22; Luke 22:37). It is easy to see that New Testament writers considered this to be a prophecy of Christ's dying for the sins of the world. Devout Jews had used this as a hope for the coming Messiah for many years.

Yet, Isaiah also wrote for his own day and age. The Servant in this last of the Servant Songs, as in earlier songs, is not only Jesus but Israel. "Dramatically, the words are addressed to the nations, but of course the whole poem is composed for Israel. Here at last is the answer to Israel's despair and blindness. Such major motifs as the mission of Israel, the relation of Israel to the nations, the meaning of her suffering, and her eventual exaltation are present here. (*The Interpreter's Bible*, "Isaiah", p. 615).

However, the ultimate fulfillment of these verses is seen in Jesus Christ. The passage teaches about the Servant suffering to bring restoration of people to God. It may have been Jehovah's desire that the Israelite nation express these realities, but nowhere in Jewish history has that occurred. It is true that Jewish people have suffered as a people and continue to struggle to secure a homeland and national identity. Still, that current struggle is basically a political one. It is not suffering for the restoration of people outside of the Israelite nation to God.

Isaiah 52:13-15 is the introduction to this passage on the Suffering Servant. In verse 13, the servant is described as acting wisely. He will be lifted up and exalted although in verse 14, he is described as disfigured and unlovely. This prophetic picture of Jesus' painful and disgraceful treatment before and during the crucifixion has even more meaning for us today. We respond to political and celebrity figures who are attractive. Modern technology has made it imperative for world leaders to have a presence which is portrayed well on television and internet forums.

Yet, this servant is described in verse 15 as shutting the mouths of kings because of the impact of his presence.

Chapter 53 is a powerful description of Christ's suffering and victory.

Verse 1 asks the question ***"Who has believed our message
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"***

John clearly attributed this question to Isaiah. His words also indicate the answer to their questions. God had revealed Himself, but the people as a whole had refused to believe His word or to accept His revelation. John 12:37-38 says ***"Even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet: 'Lord, who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?'"***

Romans 10:16 comments ***"But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, 'Lord, who has believed our message?'"***

Verse 2 describes the humble beginnings of the Servant who would become the One who did great things. He is as a tender plant; a root growing out of dry ground. Anyone who has gardened will recognize the reality that a root growing out of dry ground could hardly be expected to survive. For those of us living in northern climates, a tender plant would also not be chosen as a plant which would survive late spring snow and early fall frost.

The second part of verse 2 repeats the description of the Servant in Isaiah 52:14. The appearance of the Servant would be so marred by his suffering that people would not be attracted to him.

The familiar words of verses 3 and 4 bring pain to the reader. ***“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. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.”***

He voluntarily bound Himself in the sickness and pain of humanity. Matthew 8:14-17 comments ***“When Jesus came into Peter’s house, he saw Peter’s mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him. When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: ‘He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases’”***

In helping professions such as medicine, counselling, social work or ministry, people may experience “burn out” from “carrying” the burdens of their patients or clients. As we understand more of the medical consequences of stress on the body, we appreciate even more those who carry the burdens of others. And we must value the earthly ministry of Jesus which was so much involved with healing the sick in a day when there were few remedies for illness. Jesus was human and these burdens took a toll on his human body.

Of course, the picture that emerges from the life and death of Christ is that he continues carrying our burdens. 1 Peter 5:7 reminds us to ***“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”***

The last part of verse 3 shows how the Servant was rejected. People didn’t care about Him. This shows how little they understood who He was and what he was doing.

Verse 4 refers to the common Jewish belief that suffering was a punishment for sin. All through Isaiah we have seen that God did allow suffering in the lives of those who had turned away from him so it is not unreasonable that the Israelites should view suffering in this way. Perhaps this attitude creeps into modern day thinking as well. Verse 4 tells us that the Servant was suffering, not because of his sin, but suffering for others.

The theme is continued in verse 5. The Servant suffered pain – he was wounded and bruised and the reason for this was our transgressions and our iniquities. His suffering made possible our salvation.

Isaiah 53:6 was the theme for a girl’s missionary organization of which this writer was a part. We memorized it early on and have not forgotten it or its truth. ***“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all”*** KJV. These points are clear: everyone has sinned; the basic and universal human sin is that each one has decided to go his own way, not to walk with God in His way; the result of our turning from God is that we are separated from God and one another by our sins. ***“The Lord hath laid on him the***

iniquity of us all” makes it clear that the suffering and death of Jesus was in accordance with the plan and will of God.

Another important teaching of this verse is that the turning into one’s own way – the decision not to walk with God is the reason for our estrangement from him. We try to figure out which sins are the greatest – which ones will bring punishment. But it is the walking in our own way which leads to estrangement. Of course, in that way there will inevitably be sins, but these sins are the result of our walking away from God.

Verses 7-9 speak of the Servant’s unjust death. He was oppressed and afflicted; he went like a lamb to the slaughter. He did not try to defend himself before his accusers. Matthew 27:11-12 describes this ***“Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, ‘Are you the king of the Jews?’ ‘Yes, it is as you say,’ replied Jesus. When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. The Pilate asked him, ‘Don’t you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?’ But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge – to the great amazement of the governor.”***

Verse 8 speaks of the fact that Jesus’ death was for ***“the transgression of my people”***. For Isaiah this would be for the Israelites. Jesus came first to the Israelites – the Jewish community which had awaited his coming for many years. When they failed to recognize him as Messiah, he turned to others. The parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) indicates that Jesus cared for those outside the Jewish faith. His sharing of himself with the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:4-26) was an indication of his reaching beyond the orthodox Jewish people. His giving of the Great Commission in Mathew 28:19-20 is a clear sign that his message was for both Jews and Gentiles ***“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all everything I have commanded you. And surely, I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.”***

Verse 9 may refer to his crucifixion as a common criminal and his burial in tomb of ***“a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus” (Matthew 27:57).***

The references to offspring and long life in verse 10 are Old Testament symbols of enduring life and success in the sight of God. Verse 10 emphasizes that Jesus’ death and its ultimate gift of salvation to mankind was the will of God.

Jesus, too, was satisfied with the price he paid for the justification of many. He was willing to bear their iniquities. Hebrews 12:2 refers to Jesus as ***“the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”***

In verse 11 God himself indicates that Jesus will be rewarded because he bore the sins of many, and made intercession for transgressors. Hebrews 7:23-25 declares,

“Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him because he always lives to intercede for them.”

Verse 12 says that he “made intercessions for the transgressors.” This will form the basis for our worship time.

Your goal as the leader of this study:

For Personal Reflection:

What have I learned from this study?

What personal experience does this lesson bring to mind?

What is one action I will take this week to apply this Scripture passage to my life?

Bible Study Plan (Suggested time: 35 minutes)

Healed by His Wounds

Regroup the church after the Gathering Time and break by singing a chorus that young children can relate to—or another praise chorus if your congregation does not have children. Children who go to their own Bible teaching session should stay with the group until after this song. Have the preschoolers and children accompany the hymn with rhythm sticks, maracas, bells, etc. Children who stay with their parents in the Youth/Adult study should have the material on worship as suggested in **The Children's Corner** at the beginning of this **Unit** of studies. (Ask your leader who downloads the studies for those suggestions).

Begin by helping the group locate the Focal Text in their Bibles. Also, share with them the Main Idea to be learned from the Scriptures, and the Questions to be Explored by the group.

Focal Text

Isaiah 53:1-12

Background Text

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

Main Idea

God through Christ, the Suffering Servant, offers salvation to all people.

Question to Explore

How does God reverse our human evaluations?

Teaching Aim

To lead the class to respond in faith to God's gracious offer of salvation in Christ, the Suffering Servant.

Connect with Life:

Open with this: Today we consider one of the difficult realities of the Christian faith. Some have called it "The Scandal of the Cross". The heart of our faith lives in our ability to believe that we are incapable of living a "good enough" life to please God. For intelligent, well-meaning "good" people, that is just not an acceptable concept. Yet the teaching of our passage today is explicit. "All have sinned". All have chosen their own way". Only Christ's death on the cross is adequate to reconcile us with a holy God.

May we have the grace to understand and accept this concept and to share it with others.

Guide the Study:

Write the outline on a white board or large piece of paper.

Have someone read Isaiah 52: 13-15.

Comment: Isaiah uses the word Servant. We think of Messiah. Servant is, of course, an apt description for Jesus. Everything about his life demonstrated servanthood. The word "Messiah" is Hebrew for "the Anointed One."

Encourage responses: What contrasts do you see in these verses related to the Servant (Messiah)? (He will act wisely; he will be lifted up and exalted; he will sprinkle (save) many nations; kings will shut their mouths because of him -Many were appalled at him; his appearance was disfigured.)

Discuss the importance in today's world of an attractive appearance for political leaders and others in public positions.

Question the group: How important is this in the church? (We are all influenced by attractive people; technology has made us very aware of personal appearances.

Tell them: Unfortunately, even in church life we are influenced by appearance.

Say: Isaiah 53:1 asks a question about who has believed the message about the coming Messiah. It also asks to whom the arm of the Lord has been revealed?

Request answers to these two questions: Who was the audience in Isaiah's day? Who is the message for today?

Have someone read Isaiah 53:2.

Ask: How likely it is that a tender plant will survive in harsh surroundings?

Now add: How likely is it that a root will grow from dry ground?

Continue: Why is this description used of Jesus? (He was born to a young girl, Mary, who was married to a carpenter. He had no influential family. He was raised in a small town, Nazareth.)

Have someone read verse 3.

Ask how this verse makes one feel. This may be one of the saddest verses in the Bible.

Discuss the Jewish attitude toward suffering. (Suffering comes because of some sin in our life or in the life of our ancestors).

Then ask: When serious illness comes into our lives today, do we also ask, 'What did I do to deserve this?'

Have someone read verses 4-5.

Search for opinions: How did Jesus transform the idea of suffering for those who understood his mission?

Look for a discussion with this comment and question: "By his wounds we are healed" is the verse from which our lesson title "Healed by His Wounds" is taken. Please share your ideas on the meaning of this verse. (Jesus' pain and suffering on the cross paid the penalty for our sins.)

Have someone read verse 6.

Now ask: According to this verse, who has sinned? (all people in all times and places).

Add: What is the basic sin described here? ("each of us has turned to his own way").

Discuss with the participants how that "turning to our own way" may be experienced in modern life?

Have someone read verse 7-8.

Look for opinions: How did Jesus react to his trial and his crucifixion?

Have another person read Matthew 27:11-12.

Say: Verse 9 may refer to His crucifixion between two thieves and to his burial in the tomb of a rich man, Joseph of Arimathea (see Matthew 27:57).

Have someone read verses 10-12.

Urge a discussion on how could it be the Lord's will that Jesus would suffer.

Comment: Verse 11 speaks of the suffering of his soul. We think of the crucifixion in terms of physical suffering.

Request ideas on this: What was the suffering of the soul which Jesus experienced? (His bearing of the sins of the world; his knowledge that not all would understand and accept salvation).

Verse 11 also says that “**he will see the light of life and be satisfied**”. Have someone read Hebrews 12:2 where it says that Jesus “**who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.**”

Encourage Application:

If you have two or more youth, this is the time to give them the **Youth!!! Take Ten** page and allow them to move away from the adults and apply the lesson by and for themselves.

Conclude with this statement and question: One criticism of modern life is our inability to postpone present pleasure for future goals or gain. Is that a problem for Christians as well as society as a whole?

Ask a person to pray that your church have wisdom in sharing with others how Christmas, the coming of the Messiah, relates to Easter, the sacrifice of the Messiah.

Take a five minute break to separate the Bible Study and Worship Time. Children may need to use the washroom again before worship.

Youth!!! Take Ten

Bible Study Application for Youth

You may wish to move away from the adults for the final five to ten minutes of the Bible study and help each other as youth to apply the lesson to your own needs.

Healed by His Wounds **Isaiah 53:1-12**

A youth will lead the following activity and comments. No adults need to be present. If possible, teens should take turns in leading the application time.

“Messiah” means “Anointed One.” In the Latin it was translated Saviour. In Greek it’s the Christ.

Anointing oil was pure sweet smelling oil. It was perfume, nard, myrrh – no one knows the recipe for anointing oil, but the one important feature was that it made you smell good.

The Messiah is the one who smells pleasing to God. At his baptism, the voice from heaven said, ***“This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased”*** Luke 3:22.

Oil was a method by which men and women in biblical times kept themselves clean, or at least smelling good. A bad smell was considered a sign of trouble, just like our language today has the same meaning. “It stinks to high heaven.” “There’s something that smells fishy about this”.

Good smells were used in Temple worship not only in the burning of incense, but the fragrance of the show bread – it contained incense. The smells were to rise to God.

Think of smells which are pleasant to you. How do smells affect your mood? Do they trigger memories? Does the sense of smell enhance eating?

What are some of the smells of Christmas that are special to you?

See <http://rotation.infopop.cc/eve/forums/a/tpc/f/8096068121/m/1196068121>

Worship Time (Suggested time: 30 minutes)***Healed by His Wounds***
Isaiah 53:1-12**Beginning the Service:**

Sing “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” and “No One Understands Like Jesus.”

Offering:**Praying for the World:**

In Central Asia, cultural identity is closely tied to Islam. Most people believe that to be Kazakh or Uzbek or Turk means to be Muslim. Even Central Asians who do not practice their faith feel that to leave Islam would dishonour their families. In addition, most Central Asians have no knowledge of the Bible’s teachings and most have been taught that although it was once a book from God, it has been corrupted. A final barrier is the history and experience of Central Asians. In the past they have been oppressed by people who are called Christians. Daily they observe “Christians” who get drunk and commit shameless immorality – in real life and on Western TV programs. Thank God that in spite of these barriers thousands of Central Asians have become followers of Christ. Ask God to continue drawing Central Asians to Himself. Pray for believers to exemplify the holy, loving, hope-filled life of Christ.

Sharing Guide:

This sharing guide is written to assist the person who directs the worship time to reemphasize the teaching for the day and help guide the congregation to respond to God’s call and will for their lives in regard to the scripture studied. The leader may choose to follow the guide closely. Or, he or she may wish to only use it to give direction and a concept for preparing an original message. The leader is free to choose other ways to communicate and share the concepts presented here.

Healed by His Wounds – Jesus Interceding for Us

In our study we have read in verse 11 of Chapter 53 ***“After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied.”***

In Hebrews 12:2 it says that Jesus ***“who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”***

Hebrews 7:23-26 says ***“Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him because he always lives to intercede for them. Such a high priest meets our need – one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.”***

As we conclude our study of the book of Isaiah, we will consider that Jesus found joy in the sacrifice he made on the cross. ***“He will see the light of life and be satisfied”***. He endured the cross for the joy that was set before him.

Another important teaching is seen in the final verse in Chapter 53 of Isaiah which says ***“For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”*** Jesus continues to care for us in his ministry of intercession.

Romans 8:34-35a tells us ***“Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?”***

In Old Testament times, before the death of Christ, the High Priest offered sacrifices for sin in the outer court of the Temple in Jerusalem. One day of the year called the Day of Atonement, he entered the Holy of Holies – the innermost part of the temple which only the High Priest was to enter. On that day, he sprinkled the blood of the sacrificed animals there as a sacrifice for the sins of the people – an atonement to God. (If you have youth who have studied the Youth lesson, ask them about anointing oil or read that Youth Section to incorporate those thoughts into this message if you do not have young people).

Christ offered himself as a sacrifice on the cross as an atonement for our sins. Hebrews 9:24 gives this picture ***“For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God’s presence.”*** “Christ presents himself before God as our representative. His perfect manhood, his official character, and his finished work, plead for us before the throne of God. All that the Son of God as incarnate is, and all that He did on earth, He is, and did for us: so that God can regard us with all the favour which is due to Him

(Jesus) His presence, therefore is a perpetual and prevailing intercession with God in behalf of his people, and secures for them all the benefits of his redemption. According to the Scriptures, and speaking after the manner of men, Christ speaks to God in our behalf; or as it is expressed in John 17:9 ***“He prays for us.”*** He is our intercessor.

(SystematicTheology–
Volume11.ChristianClassicsEtherealLibrary.<http://ccel.org/ccel/hodge/theology2iv.x.i.html>)

The writer of today's lessons comments:

“As I write these words I hear the sound of a siren. It is an ambulance most likely going to a wreck on the TransCanada highway not far from my home. It is a beautiful summer Friday afternoon, but someone – perhaps some entire family – has had their plans for a fun weekend in the mountains dramatically cut short by an automobile accident. I pray for them – for whoever it is that lies injured and in pain and for their family and friends. I pray for the driver of the ambulance and the paramedics that they may travel safely and work competently. I pray for the emergency room doctors and nurses that they may quickly attend to the injured. I pray for the police cars which quickly race to the scene of an accident. I know no names and will never know any details of this accident. But I am an intercessor in this moment.

Each day my husband and I pray for our three children, their spouses and our nine grandchildren. Most days we call them all by name and pray about specific challenges they may face that day. We pray for their safety and for their spiritual growth. We are intercessors every day for these beloved ones.

For many months we have prayed for friends with serious illness. Daily we mention their names and their families' names and we pray for healing and for strength for the day. We are intercessors.

We pray for those who carry the gospel around the world. We pray for many by name and others whose names we do not know we simply lift to the Lord in prayer. We are intercessors.

And these prayers which we pray are heard by Jesus who intercedes with the Father for us.”

Perhaps we more easily understand this concept as we listen to the words of the old hymn “Tell It to Jesus”.

Are you weary, are you heavy hearted?
Tell it to Jesus, Tell it to Jesus;
Are you grieving over joys departed?
Tell it to Jesus alone.

Do the tears flow down your cheeks unbidden?
Tell it to Jesus, Tell it to Jesus;
Have you sins that to men's eyes are hidden”

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Healed by His Wounds – 14-37-07-en

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Tell it to Jesus alone.

Do you fear the gath'ring clouds of sorrow?
Tell it to Jesus, Tell it to Jesus.
Are you anxious what shall be tomorrow?
Tell it to Jesus alone.

Are you troubled at the thought of dying?
Tell it to Jesus, Tell it to Jesus.
For Christ's coming kingdom are you sighing?
Tell it to Jesus alone.

Tell it to Jesus, tell it to Jesus,
He is a friend that's well-known;
You've no other such a friend or brother,
Tell it to Jesus alone.
(Jeremiah E. Rankin, Public Domain)

He always lives to intercede for us.

Call to Commitment:

And when we tell it to Jesus, he carries to the Father and our prayers are answered.

It is as we are told in Hebrews 7:23 ***“Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him because he always lives to intercede for them.”***

Concluding the Service:

Read Psalms 96:1-3

¹Sing to the Lord a new song;
Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

²Sing to the Lord, praise his name;
Proclaim his salvation day after day.

³Declare his glory among the nations,
His marvellous deeds among all peoples.

Outline for Isaiah 52:13 - 53: 12

I. From Humiliation to Exaltation (Isaiah 52:13-15)

II. Rejection of the Servant (Isaiah 53: 1-3)

- a. Who has believed? (v.1)
- b. A root out of dry ground (v.2)
- c. Despised and rejected (v.3)

III. The Suffering of the Servant for Us (Isaiah 53:4-6)

- a. The cause of His suffering (v.4)
- b. With His stripes we are healed (v.5)
- c. Our spiritual plight (v.6)

IV. The Servant's Unjust Death (Isaiah 53:7-9)

V. God's Will and the Servant's Victory (Isaiah 53:10-12)

- a. The fulfillment of God's will (v.10)
- b. Justification (v.11)
- c. Intercessor for sinners (v.12)

(Broadman Comments, 1995-96, 52 *Ready-To-Teach Bible Study Lessons*, p. 163.)

Verses related to today's lesson

John 12:37-38 says *"Even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet: 'Lord, who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?'"*

Romans 10:16 comments *"But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, 'Lord, who has believed our message?'"*

Matthew 8:14-17 comments *"When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him. When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: 'He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases'"*

Hebrews 12:2 refers to Jesus as *"the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

Hebrews 7:23 *"Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him because he always lives to intercede for them."*