

Morning Worship - April 30, 2017
"His face Disfigured" Isaiah 52:13-15

I. His astonishing, disfigured appearance –

Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high.¹⁴ Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men;¹⁵ So shall He sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; For what had not been told them they shall see, And what they had not heard they shall consider. (Isaiah 52:13-15 NKJ)

1. Notice, Behold, Who is being written about here, God's Servant, Jesus Christ –

Behold, My Servant... - (Isaiah 52:13A NKJ)

He had already been noticed by Isaiah:

A. Isaiah 42:1 –

"Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One *in whom* My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. (Isaiah 42:1 NKJ)

B. Isaiah 49:5 –

"And now the LORD says, Who formed Me from the womb *to be His Servant*, To bring Jacob back to Him, So that Israel is gathered to Him (For I shall be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, And My God shall be My strength), (Isaiah 49:5 NKJ)

C. Isaiah 50:5-6 & 10A

The Lord GOD has opened My ear; and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away.⁶ I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting. (Isaiah 50:5-6 NKJ)

"Who among you fears the LORD? Who obeys the voice of His Servant? ... (Isaiah 50:10 NKJ)

Remember what an ear being opened meant –

"But if the servant plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,'⁶ "then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever. (Exodus 21:5-6 NKJ)

D. What is emphasized in Isaiah's prophecy about God's "Servant" with the mention of opening the Servant's ear, His giving His back and His cheeks to His persecutors is the Servant's great obedience to God, His Father –

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point* of death, even the death of the cross. (Philippians 2:8 NKJ)

2. Notice the success of God's servant –

Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high. (Isaiah 52:13 NKJ)

Notice there is a range of meaning in the language used here –

^{NAS} Isaiah 52:13 Behold, My servant will prosper, He will be high and lifted up, and greatly exalted. (Isaiah 52:13 NAS)

^{NIV} Isaiah 52:13 See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. (Isaiah 52:13 NIV)

Because God's Servant, Jesus Christ, deals prudently, and acts wisely, He does prosper and He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high.

3. Notice what is CONTRASTED with this SUCCESS –

Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men; (Isaiah 52:14 NKJ)

His visage, His face was marred more than any man, His form, His over-all appearance more than the sons of men! This verse means Jesus was so terribly beaten He was beyond recognition as HUMAN!

"The verb *astonished* suggests a disconcertment brought about by a disturbing and paralyzing astonishment. Those who beheld the terrible disfigurement of the servant were appalled and struck by awe, for they regarded the disfigurement as a punishment for the servant's own sins." Edward J. Young

4. However, notice the actual nature of the Servant's SUCCESS –

So shall He sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; For what had not been told them they shall see, And what they had not heard they shall consider. (Isaiah 52:15 NKJ)

II. *His sprinkling of many nations, refers to Christ's blood, "many nations" means this salvation would be taken beyond national Israel –*

So shall He sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; For what had not been told them they shall see, And what they had not heard they shall consider. (Isaiah 52:15 NKJ)

“As one who is disfigured, the servant does something for others, in that he performs a purifying rite.” Edward J. Young

“The verb *he shall sprinkle* is a technical word, found in the Mosaic law for the sprinkling ... as a cleansing or purifying rite.” Edward J. Young

“The priest shall dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle some of the blood seven times before the LORD, in front of the veil of the sanctuary. (Leviticus 4:6 NKJ)

He sprinkled some of it on the altar seven times, anointed the altar and all its utensils, and the laver and its base, to consecrate them. (Leviticus 8:11 NKJ)

“And he shall sprinkle it seven times on him who is to be cleansed from the leprosy, and shall pronounce him clean, (Leviticus 14:7 NKJ)

The Kings mentioned here are those who see and consider - Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; For what had not been told them they shall see, And what they had not heard they shall consider. (Isaiah 52:15 NKJ)

This means they, the Kings, RECOGNIZE what Christ has done and our amazed by it –

“I know men; and I tell you that Jesus Christ is no mere man. Between Him and every person in the world there is no possible term of comparison. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I have founded empires. But on what did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded His empire upon love; and at this hour millions of men would die for him.” Napoleon Bonaparte

III. *However, not all see this, or believe this –*

Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And

as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, *There is no beauty that we should desire Him.* ³ He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. (Isaiah 53:1-3 NKJ)*

1. *Even before he was beaten there was nothing in Jesus' social status or physical appearance that would make men desire Him; He was despised, rejected of men –*

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. (John 1:10-11 NKJ)

2. *Yet, He, by His cross is **the arm of the LORD**, He accomplishes our salvation by His work on the CROSS –*

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18 NKJ)

3. *His work on the cross accomplished our salvation – Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:4-6 NKJ)*

IV. *As Christ's visage / face was marred by the physical beating He took, so God's image is marred by our misunderstandings of Who He is –*

But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!" (John 19:15 NKJ)

True kings recognize and follow the Lamb –

And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, ¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." (Revelation 5:9-10 NKJ)

See also Romans 1:19-23

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