

Stories of Christmas

Isaiah Prophecies About Jesus - Humiliation

Isaiah

Opening

Gathering: Give examples of people you have seen who have displayed Christ's humility in their lives.

Today's Focus: Hundreds of years before Jesus came, God revealed through His prophets how He would humble Himself by sending His Son in the form of a despised man.

Key Verses: *He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.*
Isaiah 53:3

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very form of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross! Philippians 2:5-8

Opening Prayer

Lesson

The Role of God's Prophets (*2 Kings 17*)

What did God require of the kings of His people?

1 Kings 11:37-38 = Walk in my ways & follow my statutes and I will bless you

How faithful were the kings of Israel, the northern kingdom?

2 Kings 17:21-22 = They persisted in the sins of Jeroboam

How faithful was Judah, the southern kingdom?

2 Kings 17:19 = Judah *followed the practices Israel had introduced*

Did God give up on the people immediately after Jeroboam turned them away?

2 Kings 17:13-14 = No, He sent prophets to Israel & Judah to turn them back to Him

The Prophet's Message (*Isaiah 1*)

How did Isaiah begin his ministry? = Prophesied to Judah during Assyrian conquest of Israel (Is 1:1)

Isaiah 1:2-4 = Told the problem: God's kids have rebelled & turned their backs on Him

Why hadn't God tried to discipline them and turn them back to Him?

Isaiah 1:5-6 = He did, but they still *persisted in rebellion*, completely diseased with sin

What was the problem? Were the Jews not religious enough? = We're not just to go thru the motions

Isaiah 1:11-14 = He detests their meaningless worship rituals for the sake of religion

What did God want?

Isaiah 1:16-17 = Live in righteousness, not evil

How could they become righteous? What about their guilt of past evils?

Isaiah 1:18 = God will forgive them

What would happen if the people didn't return to God?

Isaiah 1:19-20 = *you will be devoured by the sword*

Knowing that the Jews would not repent and return, what did God say He would do?

Isaiah 1:21, 25 = He would specially discipline them to purify them

What hope would the Jews have after they were punished with exile?

Isaiah 1:26 = They would be restored and would live in Righteousness

Stories of Christmas

Isaiah Prophecies About Jesus - Humiliation

Page 2

The Righteous King (*Isaiah 11*)

How would the Jews know when this time of restoration and righteousness begins?

Isaiah 7:14 = *The virgin will...give birth to a son, and will call him "God with us"*

How would the news get out to everyone?

Isaiah 40:3-5 = A messenger would come and prepare the way, all mankind will hear

What did Isaiah tell them about this child?

Isaiah 9:6-7 = He would be a great & righteous ruler and would reign forever

What kind of a king would this child become?

Isaiah 11:1-5 = A righteous and faithful king like David, even better

What would this great king mean for Israel?

Isaiah 11:10, 12 = All exiles would return, the world will rally around

Why would the rest of the world rally around Israel? = Jews see world peace based in Israel

Isaiah 49:6 = This king would save not only Israel, but the whole world

How peaceful would things be under this king?

Isaiah 11:6-9 = All of creation would be at peace - *The wolf will live with the lamb*

The Righteous Servant (*Isaiah 50:4-9*)

Why would this king be so successful?

Isaiah 42:1 = He would be a servant to the Lord, God would be with him

How did this relate to Israel's original calling?

Isaiah 41:8-9 = God had called Israel to be His servant

How obedient would this chosen servant be?

Isaiah 50:4-7 = He will stand faithful even to beating, mocking, spitting, accusations

Isaiah's Four Servant Songs

Isaiah 42:1-7 = Here is my servant, my chosen, he will establish justice on earth

Isaiah 49:1-6 = It isn't enough to restore Israel, also save the whole world

Isaiah 50:4-9 = Offer my back to be beaten, my cheeks to pull out my beard

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 = He was despised, rejected, bore our sins, suffered to save many

While the Jews misunderstood what Isaiah was describing, how well did Isaiah understand?

1 Peter 1:10-12 = He didn't, he also longed to understand.

The Doubter's Chapter (*Isaiah 52:13-53:12*)

Isaiah's fourth servant song (52:13-53:12) points directly to Jesus

It can convince Jews that Jesus is the promised Messiah - Called *The Doubter's Chapter*

How does Isaiah begin his fourth servant song that accurately describes Jesus?

Isaiah 52:13 = *He will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted*

How was Jesus highly exalted? = Raised & lifted on cross, from grave, into heaven

Philippians 2:9 = *God exalted Him to the highest place*

How did Isaiah's next verse confuse the Jews' picture of this great king?

Isaiah 52:14 = *Many were appalled at him - his appearance was so disfigured*

How did this describe Jesus?

Mark 14:65; 15:17-19 = He was whipped, beaten, crown of thorns, hit on head

Stories of Christmas

Isaiah Prophecies About Jesus - Humiliation

Page 3

The Doubter's Chapter (*Isaiah 52:13-53:12*)

How would this king save the whole world? = Priests sprinkled sacrifice blood on people to cleanse

Isaiah 52:15 = He would bring nations to God, they could be atoned with sacrifices

How did this reference to the sprinkling of blood of the atoning sacrifice point to Jesus?

1 Peter 1:2 = Jesus was the ultimate atoning sacrifice and sprinkled His blood on us

What other sprinkling did Jesus bring to us?

Hebrews 10:22 = The waters of baptism

How would the true message of this servant be accepted?

Isaiah 53:1 = People wouldn't believe what would be revealed to them

How was this fulfilled with Jesus?

John 12:37-38 = The Jews didn't believe in Jesus, despite his miraculous signs

Would this great king look like a great king?

Isaiah 53:2 = *He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him*

Didn't Jesus attract people by His greatness wherever He went?

Matthew 13:54-57 = No, He was rejected in His hometown, People came for message

Besides his looks, how well would this great king of the Jews be accepted by people?

Isaiah 53:3 = *He'd be despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows & suffering*

How clearly was Jesus despised and rejected by men?

Mark 15:29-32 = He was mocked and insulted while being crucified

Although despised and rejected, what would this servant do for mankind?

Isaiah 53:4a = He would take away our pains and troubles

How did Jesus take away pains and troubles?

Matthew 8:16-17 = He drove out demons and healed the sick

How would this servant be supported by God during his thankless work for mankind?

Isaiah 53:4b = *We considered him stricken by God, smitten by Him and afflicted*

How was this played out in Jesus?

Matthew 27:43, 46 = *Let God save him ... My God, why have you forsaken me?*

Why would God strike, smite and afflict this great servant?

Isaiah 53:5a = *He was pierced for our transgressions...crushed for our iniquities*

How directly was this fulfilled by Jesus?

John 19:33-34, 36 = He was pierced by the soldiers to make sure He was dead

Would the servant do this because mankind would be so deserving?

Isaiah 53:5b-6 = *Man turned his own way like sheep; by his wounds we are healed*

How does Peter explain that this was fulfilled by Jesus?

1 Peter 2:24-25 = He quotes from these verses to show how Jesus died for our sins

How willingly would this servant go through this suffering?

Isaiah 53:7 = *He wouldn't even defend himself, like a lamb to the slaughter*

Did Jesus fit this description?

Matthew 27:12-14 = He gave no answer to the accusations thrown at Him

Stories of Christmas

Isaiah Prophecies About Jesus - Humiliation

Page 4

The Doubter's Chapter (*Isaiah 52:13-53:12*)

Would people recognize what was happening when this was carried out?

Isaiah 53:8 = Read footnote translation - Who considered he was their substitute?

How was Jesus our substitute?

2 Corinthians 5:21 = *God made Him who had no sin to be a sin offering for us*

How would this great king be treated in his death? = See v12 regarding "with the wicked"

Isaiah 53:9a = *He was assigned a grave with the ... rich*

How did this describe Jesus?

Matthew 27:57-60 = He was buried in the fresh grave of rich Joseph of Arimathea

Was this servant treated this way because he deserved it?

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

What should we learn from this for our own lives?

1 Peter 2:21-22 = Follow Jesus' example of humility and endure even undeserved suffering

Why would this servant go through all of this suffering?

Isaiah 53:10-11 = *He will see the light of life and be satisfied* that he justified many

How did Jesus see the light of life?

Matthew 28:6 = He rose from death

How does knowledge of this justify many?

Romans 10:9 = If you believe Jesus is Lord & that He died & rose, you will be saved

How does Isaiah summarize his song on the suffering servant?

Isaiah 53:12 = He was numbered with sinners and bore their sins

How was Jesus numbered with the transgressors?

Mark 15:27-28 = He was given a criminal's death with robbers on each side

Besides being forever thankful of what Jesus did for us, what should we learn from this?

Philippians 2:5-8 = *Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus ... humility*

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. How often can I say that my attitude has been the same as that of Christ Jesus?
(Phil. 2:5; Matthew 11:28-30; 1 Cor. 4:15-17; 11:1; Hebrews 6:10-12; 1 Peter 2:20-23; 3 John 9-10)
2. When have I tried to take the place of God or acted like I was in charge of things that only God controls?
(Philippians 2:6; Genesis 50:19; Job 38:1-42:6; Romans 12:18-19; 1 Corinthians 10:3)
3. What are some examples of when I have humbled myself?
(Philippians 2:1-4, 7-8; Isaiah 66:2b; Matthew 6:1-18; Luke 6:27-36; 14:7-14; James 3:13; 4:10)
4. In what ways do I take the very nature of a servant?
(Philippians 2:7; Joshua 24:14-15; Job 1:8; Matthew 20:25-28; Luke 16:13; 22:24-27; John 13:1-17; 1 Peter 4:10-11)
5. Is my faith strong enough to withstand the threat of death?
(Philippians 2:8; Matthew 16:24-28; John 16:33; Acts 7:54-60; 14:21-22; Romans 8:28-39; Philippians 1:20-24; 2 Timothy 3:12)

Next Week - *Psalms Tell of Jesus - Exaltation* (Psalms)