

The Vindication of Jesus*Isaiah 53:10-12*

Introduction: In light of Easter, we've paused the last two weeks from our Sermon on the Mount study to look at Isaiah 52:13-53:12. Today we are focusing on the fifth and final stanza of a passage that describes the ministry of the Servant of the Lord. Steve preached on the first three stanzas last Sunday and the fourth stanza on Friday night. Much of what we have looked at has focused on the Servant's suffering. This final stanza looks beyond the Servant's suffering to His vindication. Written over 700 years before the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ, this passage speaks of One who would die as our substitute and who would then be vindicated through His resurrection. While this passage doesn't explicitly teach the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, what is said here is really incomprehensible apart from the resurrection. What we'll see is that what is implicit in this Old Testament passage is made very explicit in the New Testament.

Read Isaiah 53:7-9 (Steve preached from this at the Good Friday service)

1. In what ways did Jesus literally fulfill these words of prophecy that were written 700+ years before his crucifixion?

Read Isaiah 53:10-12

1. What are you initially struck by in reading this passage? What sticks out to you?
2. What does this passage add to our understanding of what Jesus' death and resurrection accomplished?
3. What does verse 10 say would happen if the Servant is sacrificed as a guilt offering?
4. In what ways do these things point to the vindication of Christ (see also Psalm 128:6; Deut. 17:20; Prov. 28:16)?

Steve said:

All of these covenantal blessings point to the Servant's vindication. Yes, he would suffer horrific things as a guilt offering; but beyond His humiliation and suffering, He would be resurrected to see His descendants and have prolonged days. In other words, ***the existence of the Church points to the vindication of Jesus Christ***. Everybody expected the crucifixion to be the end of the "Jesus movement" in first-century Israel; the disciples had scattered in fear when Jesus was crucified. But everything changed when they arrived at the tomb on that Sunday morning and found the tomb empty. When Jesus appeared to them in person, they were convinced that the unimaginable had happened: Jesus was raised from the dead and everything He had said and done was vindicated.

5. How does the existence of the Church point to the vindication of Christ?

Steve said:

The Scriptures teach that once we enter into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, we now have the power and the privilege of living a life that pleases Him. We now follow Jesus as His disciples. In a few weeks we'll finish up our study through the Sermon on the Mount in which this lifestyle is described. When we focus on this lifestyle it's easy to notice how inconsistent and immature we are at times. It's easy to become disheartened and wonder if we'll ever really make progress. Perhaps there is some sin that is particularly discouraging to you; or perhaps you lack some virtue (such as patience or kindness) and wonder if you'll ever make progress. The thing I would say to you on this Easter morning is that the resurrection of Jesus confirms that He is satisfied in what He has already accomplished in you. When He sees you, He is satisfied. His satisfaction in you isn't based on your performance; it is based on what He has accomplished through His death and resurrection. Take courage in your walk with Christ. Because He is risen, you are justified.

6. What does it mean to be justified?

7. What does it mean to you personally to **know** that if you have trusted Jesus as your Savior that when God sees you He is satisfied?

8. Is it hard for you to accept that God's satisfaction in you has nothing to do with your performance and everything to do with what Jesus accomplished through His death and resurrection? Why or why not?

9. How might it affect you to truly live in light of the knowledge that God is satisfied with you because of Christ?