

Isaiah 53:1-3 Lord's Supper Talk Palm Sunday 28th March 2021

RECORD!! v1 Pray.

Reminder. 4 servant songs looking beyond exile to hope of salvation for Israel and the world! (52:9,10)

This 4th song one is ABC

- **Astonishing** in subject matter.
 - Suffering servant. Hopes of the world on one individual.
 - More on suffering. Hab. Job. Covid! part of God's plans.
- **Breathtaking** in beauty
 - 5 stanzas of 3 verses.
 - One for each of Easter services. Major 1 verse.
 - StAG sermons available.
 - Each one increasingly longer by 1 line.
 - (cf Lamentations).
- **Christ centred** in fulfilment.
 - quoted around 8 times (Jesus, Paul, Peter, gosp, Acts).
 - alluded to 32 times.
 - Teaching us events AND meaning of the cross.
 - I'm sure Road to Emmaus.

Having spoken of a SERVANT WHO SUCCEEDS THROUGH SUFFERING (v13-15) v1 asks a question. Who has believed messg re servant? And answer comes at end v3b no-one! That's how NT (John 12:38 and Romans 10:16) use it: unbelief. That's the key theme. **Unbelief. Blindness.**

Need yr help dig in (4) v2-3. How is this servant described? Point to Jesus?

- **v2a** unimpressive in origins. *vulnerable shoot, unimpressive root.*
 - born in a stable
 - questions about his legitimacy
 - what good can come from Nazareth?
- **v2b** unappealing in appearance. *no beauty, nothing... desire him.*
 - Hardly the blue-eyed boy of popular RC imagery.
 - Little in gospels re appearance, but... unremarkable guy.
 - returned to Nazareth. treated w contempt.

- **v3a** **unhappy in experiences** suffering. pain.
 - suffering before
- **v3b** **unpopular in esteem**. hide. low esteem.
 - Phar hated him
 - disciples abandoned him
 - Pilate crucified him.
- Just as review those things, I'm struck again by 2 things
- 1) the clarity of Bible 700 years before the event!
 - It's what keeps me a Christian!
 - This is not a made up book!
- It's hard to organise your own death to fulfil prophecies 700 years b4!
- 2) The relevance of the Bible.
 - Which of us has never felt. unimp/unapp/unhap/unpop.
 - Bible understands us, and Jesus associates with us.
 - We shouldn't be quick to judge. Appearances can be deceptive.
- But the thing is that Initially we fall for appearances. v1
- ▲ UCCF Luke's Gospel. "Don't judge....a book by a cover". mugging?
 - Judging a book by cover
 - That's what happens v1.
 - Who has believed?
 - Big theme. **Blindness**. Again.
- **John 12: 37** *Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. ³⁸ This was to fulfil the word of Isaiah the prophet: 'Lord, who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?'*
- ³⁹ *For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere: ⁴⁰ 'He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn – and I would heal them.'*
- ⁴¹ *Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him.*

- **Romans 10:16** *But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, 'Lord, who has believed our message?'*
- Jews at time of Jesus were blind.
- Non- Christians can be blind.
- We can be blind.
 - Even as we come to faith we still long to understand it more deeply.
- But there's an encouragement.
- **REVEALED**.
 - Today if there's even a mustard seed of faith in your heart that sees glory at the cross, PRAISE GOD!
- He's revealed it to you!
- You see a Christian (though partially sighted sometimes)
- has come to see.
- You've had the Aha moment of v4. "Surely"/ "AH"- more on Friday.
 - Appearances can be deceptive.
 - Horrible elephant man from which hide faces?
 - No- the Son of God come to rescue us.
- **Why did he sink so low?**
 - He was suffering with us, (when we feel **these**!)
 - v4.
 - He was suffering for us.
 - v5-6.
- He did it for you. He became the elephant man for you.
- Because he wanted you in heaven. He became grotesque with our sin. Swapping places.
- The punishment that brought us peace on HIM!

PRAY: Give us eyes to see it!