



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

Worship Theme – Make Selfless Sacrifices
Sermon Theme – God loved us first
October 21-23, 2024

Isaiah 53:10-12 Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand. ¹¹After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge ¹²my 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 intercession for the transgressors.

1. Why was it God's will to "crush" his own Son? How does that demonstrate his love for us?

The crushing of Jesus wasn't an act of divine cruelty, but a profound expression of God's love. God chose to sacrifice his own Son because it was the only way to save humanity from sin. Isaiah 53:10 tells us it was the LORD's will to crush him, his righteous servant, and make his life an offering for sin. God's plan all along was to deal with our sin completely and permanently through Jesus' suffering and death. God's love is displayed in this ultimate sacrifice. He loved us so much that he gave up his own Son to restore the relationship with him which we broke! This is love in its purest form – God putting our salvation above all else, even his own Son. We love because God loved us first in this way.

2. What does Isaiah 53:11 mean when it says Jesus "will see the light of life and be satisfied," and how does that shape our understanding of our salvation?

Isaiah 53:11 points to the resurrection and Jesus' victory over death. After his suffering, he'd rise and be satisfied by the results of his sacrifice – our salvation. This satisfaction comes from knowing that his suffering was not in vain, but brought justification to the many, the world. This passage shows us the triumph of Jesus' love and sacrifice. The light of life is the resurrection, both Jesus' and ours by faith in him. Jesus is satisfied by doing perfectly the Father's will of saving sinners. It's his joy!

3. How does Jesus' sacrifice define the life we live as Christians?
Galatians 2:20 says, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."
Our identity as Christians, our life, is defined in Galatians 2:20. It's entirely rooted in Jesus' sacrifice. We've been crucified with Christ. Our old selves, enslaved by sin are dead. Christ now lives in us, and the life we live is no longer our own but defined by faith in the one who loved us and gave himself for us. Everything we do, every decision we make, is influenced by Jesus' love for us. Christ fulfilled the expectations of the Law and in doing so, freed us from its curse, and turned it into our servant not to be feared, but utilized in living out the love of Jesus in us which fulfills it. Our lives become an extension of Christ's love, kindness, forgiveness, and grace.
4. What does it mean to live a life of sacrifice, and how does it mirror Jesus' willingness to suffer for us?
Jesus went to the cross willingly, not reluctantly, but gladly in love because he knew how profoundly we'd benefit by it. He put aside full use of his power, his divine majesty, dignity, rights, and his life for our salvation. Since we're made in his image, made new by this love, we are defined by it and we are called to live in the same way, that is, sacrificially. Often, this goes unnoticed because many acts of service fly under the radar of most. Humility tends not to draw attention to itself. Sometimes though, you'll really

notice living sacrificially when called upon to give up comfort, rights, or pride for the sake of others. This kind of life is a response to God's love, not something he demands of us. God demands nothing of us because he demanded everything of Jesus and was pleased with what Jesus offered – himself! This we do in love and thanks to God for the grace we've received.

5. How does the example of Jesus washing the disciples' feet illustrate what it means to sacrifice and serve in love?

This is a powerful example of sacrificial love. It wasn't just about cleaning dirty feet and following a custom, it was about willingly taking the position of a servant, humbling himself to care for, in whatever way the situation dictated, those he loved. The disciples were shocked by this because it seemed so far beneath the Lord they believed in and loved. Yet Jesus willingly set aside his dignity to demonstrate that true love serves others. What a powerful model for us! Sacrificing pride and status, what we think is befitting our venerable station, is what Jesus' washing feet exemplifies for us. What an opportunity to teach the value of love in action when we do whatever is required not thinking we're "too good" for it. Big or small, Christ's love compels us to serve others, nothing too small or beneath us since the creation was happy to wash his creatures' feet.

6. What does it mean to "forego personal rights" for the sake of the gospel? How does doing this display God's grace and his image? To forego personal rights is to willingly choose to give up our own desires, comforts, and things we feel entitled to for the sake of others and the spread of the gospel. No small thing! Only the power God the Spirit can bring this about in us, especially when it comes to the "willing" part of it all! Jesus didn't insist on his rights, but set them aside to the point of being crucified with all sin of all time in his body. We're called to do the same, to live like "winning" or personal justice quests aren't the main endeavor. Paul's a great example of a sinful person doing this. How powerful the Spirit worked in his heart! Paul was a full-time

teacher of Christ and, in many instances, a full time tent maker. He set aside his preferences and comforts, becoming all things to all people for the sake of getting the gospel to them. He said he became slave to everyone. I'm a husband, a dad, a pastor, a friend, but I've yet to associate "slave to all" with myself. Let's all pray for God to work in us such a desire to want to be great in his kingdom by being least of all and servant of all.

7. Why is humility crucial in living out the love of Christ, especially towards those who may oppose us?

Humility's an essential quality because it reflects the character of Christ, who being in very nature God, didn't consider it something to be used for his own advantage, but served humanity at massive cost to himself. When we live humbly, with pride and ego set aside, even people who oppose us at every point of our faith, will be able to see our love for them. Like Christ did and teaches, pray for those who persecute, pray for those who hate you, pray the Father would forgive. Humility allows us to love others sacrificially without expecting a thing in return. It enables us to show grace even in difficult situations, shining Jesus' love for all people, even those who reject him.

8. How does the image of Jesus interceding for transgressors, like **Isaiah 53:12** talks about, offer comfort and assurance in our daily lives as Christians?

Poured out his life to death! What vivid phrasing Isaiah has! (The whole book is filled with vivid imagery.) Jesus interceded for us, made peace for us with the Father. He now, as the living and ascended Lord, continues to advocate for us before the Father, always pointing to his righteousness which covers us by faith. How comforting to know that Jesus isn't on permanent vacation, but lives always to stand by his saving us! He lives to ensure we remain in God's grace. Jesus, our friend, lives and his love covers us always.