

THE GOD WHO FEELS YOUR PAIN

ISAIAH 53 & ACTS 8

MAIN TAKEAWAY

Jesus had to die because there is no other way to satisfy God's righteous demands—Jesus is our substitute. There is power in the message of the death and resurrection of Jesus!

INTRODUCTION

Pastor Greg explained that we live in the “comfortable generation.” Why do we try to avoid pain at all costs? Share an example.

We want the gain without the pain and the crown without the cross—but Jesus chose the way of pain on purpose. As Pastor Greg asked, “Why is the death of Jesus so important?” What does it mean that it is “of first importance” (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)?

UNDERSTANDING

READ ISAIAH 53:1-12

Jesus was ordinary in appearance (v.2). In cultures that worship the outward, why is this an unexpected trait of the Messiah? What else was ordinary about Jesus' life?

Jesus was extraordinary in what He came to do (v.3). People wanted a militant Messiah, but Jesus came as a suffering Savior. What does this reveal about humanity's greatest need (Mark 10:42-45)?

Jesus loved us and died for us (v.5-6). Pastor Greg said, “Calvary shows how far men will go in *sin* and how far God will go for *salvation*.” Why did Jesus have to die (Romans 6:23)? How does this reveal His love (Romans 5:8; John 3:16)?

Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice (v.7). How does the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ reveal that He was not an accidental victim, but a conquering victor? What is

the greatest good that came from the most evil act of all time?

READ ACTS 8:26–40

Why is Isaiah 53 one of the most important chapters in the Old Testament? How did Philip explain it (v.34–35)?

The death of Jesus was foretold by the Hebrew prophets. Why are Messianic prophecies important in validating the message of the gospel? How does this help explain the connection between the Old and New Testaments?

How does the conversion of the eunuch reveal the transforming power of Jesus?

APPLICATION

Pastor Greg explained that this week’s Scripture answers the most important questions of life: *How can you come into a relationship with God? How can you be free from the guilt and remorse of sin? How can you be certain that your sin is forgiven and you’ll go to Heaven?* Like the man in Acts 8, how did you come to find answers to these questions? Briefly share your story of how you came to know Jesus.

Like Philip, are you ready and able to explain the good news of Jesus from the Scriptures? How would you like to grow in your knowledge and communication of God’s Word?

Jesus can sympathize with your sorrow. In your grief, how are you comforted by knowing that Jesus understands your pain and sorrow—not just in theory, but personally (John 11:35–36)? How does this affect the way you pray (Hebrews 4:14–16)?

PRAYER

Give thanks for the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Personally meditate upon what Jesus has done for you (Galatians 2:20). Pray for a renewed focus and urgency to share the gospel message (1 Corinthians 2:2).