



God's Miraculous Love Letter

Is. 52:13-53:12

RECAP

Timeless truth: The Lord alone is the only One that you can fully trust.

God's people were divided into two kingdoms. To the north, the kingdom of Israel. To the south, the kingdom of Judah. Each nation was led by a succession of kings who continually did evil in the eyes of the Lord. There were a few exceptions, but the majority of kings led the people away from the Lord. Once again, God's people were in jeopardy of turning their hearts completely away from the Lord and serving worthless idols.

God would not give up on His people. Jonah was the reluctant prophet from Israel sent to warn Nineveh. Like many of his successors, he was given a simple message, "Repent or destruction is coming." The Ninevites did repent, and Jonah saw the greatest revival in his lifetime. Unfortunately, that would not be the case for many of the prophets.

The prophet Isaiah would arise from the nation of Judah declaring God's judgement on all nations including Israel. He lived during the reign of five different kings, consistently urging people to trust in God alone. Like many of God's prophets, he would give a sobering view of their present situation but also a hopeful view of the future to come. His prophecies focused on God's glory, God's judgment, and God's Suffering Servant.

During Isaiah's lifetime, King Manasseh from Judah rebelled against the Lord. He set up altars in the Lord's temple where worshipping the stars accompanied worshipping God. This would send Judah into a spiritual relapse that they would never recover from.

Through the voice of the prophets, God consistently offers His people forgiveness and restoration if they would renounce the foreign God's and return to Him. However, the people would continue to ignore the prophet's warnings and worship foreign gods. Their continued disobedience would result in facing a judgement that would ultimately be their downfall. God was heartbroken for His people. Why wouldn't they place their trust in Him?

In the middle of the chaos and confusion, God lovingly proclaimed a consistent message of hope through Isaiah that He would one day send a Suffering Servant to rescue His people. This Servant would be ordinary in appearance but extraordinary in action. Through His suffering He would display greatness. Through His sacrifice He would display God's unrelenting love

With rich imagery Isaiah describes the character and compassion of God revealing the ultimate hope that would rescue mankind. Through specific details they tell the story of the life of Jesus in staggering specificity.

Isaiah's message: Salvation lies only in God. The question is whether we will accept His offer.



God's Miraculous Love Letter

Is. 52:13-53:12

SHARE (5-10 min)

Icebreaker Question: Share about a time when someone took the blame for you. How did that make you feel?

STUDY (about 30 min) Read Isaiah 52 & 53

1. Reflect on last week's reading and the sermon. Is there any truth that stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful, or difficult to grasp?
2. According to what you've been reading, what is the role of a prophet? How do modern musicians, artists, speakers, or writers reveal biblical spiritual truths today?
3. Read Isaiah 53:1-3. Although Jesus' appearance didn't seem to be the strong arm of God, why would God choose someone as undesirable? How does this description of Jesus compare to the New Testament picture of Jesus?
4. Read Isaiah 53:4-8. How would you feel if you were the beneficiary of the person described in these verses? Would you be willing to let this happen for your sake? Could you ever do something similar? Why or why not?
5. Read Isaiah 53:9-12. What is the first word that comes to mind when you consider Jesus did just what Isaiah describes (He gave His life for your sake)?
6. Read Philippians 2:5-11. Identify similarities and differences between this passage and Isaiah 53.
7. Jesus (the Suffering Servant) became a substitutionary sacrifice by putting Himself in your place. How does that impact the way you live? How does that impact how you treat others?
8. This One who suffered for us shows what love is all about. Because of His sacrifice, love has been spread throughout the world. How has His love directly affected your life? Your marriage? Your responses to others?

SUPPORT (15 min)

Prayer: Spend time in prayer with your group. After taking personal prayer requests and praying for those, close the group time by reading aloud together Isaiah 53:11-12 as a prayer.