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## The Suffering Servant

By Ken Terry on February 28, 2024

**TODAY'S READING:** Isaiah 53

When I talk with people in small group settings, I often speak about living like Jesus. In messages I write, I remark about living like Jesus. And in sermons I have written, I stress that if we really want to become One in Jesus, we must live the life that He lived and love in the manner Jesus loved. After reading Isaiah 53, I wonder how many would hold fast to that concept of living like Jesus, like the Suffering Servant? Think about it, in a world where everyone wants to fit in, everyone wants to be accepted and liked, how many are willing to risk their popularity to this point: "He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him" (Isaiah 53:3, NKJV).

If I were honest, this is not the optimal way anyone would want to live their life. But God, my friends! We are so blessed to not have a God with our self-serving consciousness--a God who sees past the, "What's in it for me?" and has a broader perspective of what the life of His created beings can be! My friends, our God stepped out of heaven and was incarnated in the flesh, one of His created beings. He loved us so much: "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken" (Isaiah 53:5,7-8, NKJV).

This is Jesus! This is what our God did on our behalf. Anyone with the courage to follow Him must be willing to do the same. He says in His Word, "Deny yourself and pick up your cross and follow me." Therefore, if we truly want to follow Christ and live and Jesus lived. If we truly want to love as Jesus loved, we must be willing to make the sacrifices and suffer as our Master suffered as a servant of the Lord.

**PRAYER:** Our Father in the heavens, Jehovah God, we thank You for our time in Your Word today. We thank You for revealing to us the Suffering Servant You gave to pay the penalty of our sins. We thank You for helping us understand that if we truly want to be transformed into the image of Jesus, we must walk in the manner that Jesus walked. Today's devotion encompasses the ways and means towards that end. Father, help us to be encouraged as we continue to learn to live as Jesus. We ask this in His holy name, amen.

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**TOMORROW'S READING: Daniel 3** 

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