

April 2, 2017
Isaiah 53:7-9

THE GREAT RESTRAINT

I. Introduction:

A Look At The Cross

II. A Look At Isaiah 53:7-9

**7] He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.**

8] By oppression^[a] and judgment he was taken away.
Yet who of his generation protested?
For he was cut off from the land of the living;
for the transgression of my people he was punished.

9] He was assigned a grave with the wicked,
and with the rich in his death,
though he had done no violence,
nor was any deceit in his mouth.

III. Jesus Used Restraint Because He Understood The Will Of God In Suffering:

A. Jesus Was Submissive To The Will Of God

1. "Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. **Yet not as I will, but as you will.**"
2. "The son of man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again." Mark 8:31

3. “My father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, **may your will be done.**” Matthew 26:42
4. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross! Philippians 2:8p

IV. What Jesus Teaches Us About Using Restraint

A. Jesus Is Our Model For Handling Suffering

1. ²¹To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you **an example**, that you should follow in his steps. ²²“He committed no sin and no deceit was found in his mouth.”^[e]
²³When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, **he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.**” I Peter 2:21-23
2. ¹⁹Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; **I will repay,**”^[l] **says the Lord.** Romans 12:19

POINTS TO PONDER
Week of April 2nd to 8th
Isaiah 52:12 to Isaiah 53:12

Open It

1. *What kinds of human suffering are particularly abhorrent and difficult for you to watch?
2. What personal experience can you relate about the suffering of the innocent?

Explore It

3. How did God, through Isaiah's prophecy, characterize the actions of the coming Servant? (52:13)
4. What opposite reactions would people have to the Messiah before and after His suffering? (52:14-15)
5. *What was unbelievable about the message of God's chosen deliverance? (53:1-3)
6. What did Isaiah prophesy about the attractiveness of God's Servant? (53:2-3)
7. What would actually be happening when people were assuming that God was punishing Jesus? (53:4)
8. *What would the wounds of the Messiah accomplish for all believers? (53:5)
9. In what way did Isaiah illustrate people's sinfulness? (53:6)
10. What has God done with the sin of each human being? (53:6)
11. *How did Isaiah say that the Messiah would respond to mistreatment and suffering? (53:7)
12. What earthly heritage would remain for the Messiah? (53:8)
13. In what way would the Messiah's death not fit the deeds of His life? (53:9)
14. What was God's will in relation to the life of His Son? (53:10)
15. What "satisfaction" did God promise would follow the suffering of the Messiah? (53:11)

16. Why did Isaiah say that the Messiah would be exalted and "divide the spoils"? (53:12)

Get It

17. Why do you think some people tend to despise those who suffer?

18. How important is it to be attractive in order to be held in high regard?

19. What are the different ways in which a person might attract a following?

20. How is the imagery in God's prophecy of the mission of the Messiah full of meaning?

21. Why was it necessary for a righteous servant to be the bearer of sins?

22. *What great spiritual treasures were gained for us by the death of Jesus Christ?

23. *What sufferings of Jesus (such as those described in Luke 23:1-56) were foretold in Isaiah 53?

Apply It

24. *What one goal for your relationship with God can you work on in the coming weeks by contemplating His sacrifice for you?

25. How can you plan to answer the next person who questions you about Jesus' humiliation and suffering?