

PRAYER

- Pray that God will open your understanding and help you live out the freedom that the cross brings.

- Claim the promises of healing in God’s Word as you pray for those who are sick in your group.

- Pray to have full awareness of the righteousness that Christ has already given us.



NOTES

CONNECT

- If there was one thing you have which you can exchange for another thing you really want, what would it be and why?
- If you would wear a statement shirt that describes who you are in one word, what would it say (e.g., amazing, beautiful, funny, generous, etc.)?
- What do you usually do during Holy Week?



WORD

⁵But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:5,6

WHAT *What does the Bible say?*

When our Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross about 2,000 years ago, there was a substitution that happened. Let's examine the Scriptures to see and understand this divine exchange.

- **Jesus was punished so that we can be forgiven.**

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him . . .

Isaiah 53:5

Jesus was wounded, bruised, and chastised to pay the penalty for our guilt and iniquities. He was crucified on the cross so we can have forgiveness, peace, and reconciliation with God. Sin has separated us from God; therefore it has to be taken away by Christ so we that can be reconciled back to God (1 Peter 3:18; Colossians 1:19-22). Why did Jesus have to take on the punishment for our sins?

- **Jesus was wounded so that we can be healed.**

. . . and by his wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53:5

The wounds that Jesus carried on His body from the crown of thorns upon His head, the nails on His hands and feet, and the sword of the Roman soldier that pierced His side—all of these were meant for our healing and restoration. With the physical pain He went through, Jesus paved a way for us to claim the promise of healing (Matthew 8:14-17; 1 Peter 2:24). How is this divine exchange relevant to us today?

- **Jesus took our sins so we can be righteous in the sight of God.**

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:6

Jesus did not die because of His sin—He had none. What happened on the cross is explained in 2 Corinthians 5:21. Martin Luther called this “The Great Exchange,” a legal arrangement where Jesus’ perfect righteousness was credited to us, as if we did every good thing He did. And in turn, Jesus got the guilty verdict, as if He did all our sins. All these took place so that we can be legally accepted by God (Hebrews 4:15; 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 2:2; 3:5)! When we receive what Jesus did on the cross for us, why could we be called righteous?

SO WHAT *What is the relevance of the Word to my life?*

- How convinced are you that God has forgiven all your sins? Which areas in your past are you still struggling to believe that God has forgiven you completely?
- When we say that Jesus was wounded so we can be healed, in which areas can we claim healing? What area in your life needs healing right now?
- Where is your righteousness based? Why can you be called righteous?

NOW WHAT *How do I apply the Word to my life?*

- How can we accept and appropriate in our lives what Jesus has done for us on the cross?
- From the three points discussed in this lesson, which benefit do you think you need the most in your life right now? How will you claim this benefit?
- With whom can you share this Good News this week?