



LIVING THE CROSS—PART 3

THE SUFFERING SERVANT

SAVED THROUGH SUFFERING

ISAIAH 53:3-6

He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

⁴ Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

**The Messiah will suffer.
The Messiah will save His people through suffering.
His suffering brings peace and healing to His people.**

MARK 8:27-33

Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?”

²⁸ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”

²⁹ “But what about you?” he asked. “**Who do you say I am?**” Peter answered, “**You are the Messiah.**”

³⁰ Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

Jesus then began to teach them that **the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.**

³² He spoke plainly about this, and **Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.**

³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, **he rebuked Peter.** “**Get behind me, Satan!**” he said. “**You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.**”

Jesus understood that the Messiah would fulfill God’s plan in the way of the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53.

EMBRACE THE FOOLISHNESS OF SUFFERING

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;

the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”

²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: **a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,** ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

If we want to follow Jesus; if we want to participate in His mission; if we want to accomplish His work, then we must do so according to His WAY.

We can’t accomplish His goals according to worldly methods.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-4

For though we live in the world, **we do not wage war as the world does.** ⁴ **The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world.** On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

We were rescued by the suffering servant and it is Him we follow.

He calls His followers to service and suffering, too.

For reasons we don’t fully understand, this is how God’s victory and His Kingdom come.