

# The Sin-Bearing Mercy of Christ

An exposition of Isaiah 52:13-53:12  
at West Hills San Jose on December 23, 2018

**INTRODUCTION:** Good morning church! Merry Christmas. I'm so thankful to be with you this morning in Christ's name. For those of you who have not been here the last several weeks, or years, every year around Christmas time we take a short break in our normal teaching schedule to focus on the Advent Season. This year we been focusing on several passages from the prophet Isaiah, where He prophecies about a man who is going to come, called the Servant of the Lord. There are four passages that describe Him and what He is coming to do and they are usually referred to as the Servant Songs...hence the series title, Anthem's of Advent. And we look at these Old Testament passages because we are trying to understand what it was that Israel was expecting at Christmas. Before Christ actually came, what did the bible teach God's people to expect, and how were these expectations fulfilled in Christ? So today we will be looking at the final song of the servant. Please open your bibles to Isaiah 52.

In today's passage, we are going to look at the final servant song, which addresses the problem of human guilt. And in the passage, God is going to take for granted that guilt is a universal problem for His creatures. Everyone deals with it. Everyone has been guilty of doing something they know was wrong, everyone has felt the sharp pang of guilt in their heart, and in the agony of that experience...EVERY ONE OF US...has sought desperately to find a way to unload the weight of that burden somehow.

**PROBLEM:** Some of us blame shift. We look for a way to make our sin someone else's fault. Some people blame their parents, or their spouses or their education...for why they act impatiently, or unfairly, or foolishly towards others. It's someone else's fault. We look for a way to just keep passing the buck, because we know we can't bear the weight of our own guilt. We want desperately, for someone else to bear our guilt for us.

But guilt is not just an inward thing, or a feeling. Our real problem is objective moral guilt. Like when you are saying unkind things about someone and you turn around and they are standing right there. You are not just guilty inside...are real sin has just taken place, which, if left unreconciled, will haunt that relationship the rest of your life. Objective, real guilt for a wrong done. Sometimes it's possible to deal with your objective moral guilt. Like you could apologize and potentially even be reconciled with the person who caught you tearing them down. But many times you can't. Some times you find yourself trapped in circumstances you never intended to create, but were actually set in motion by your sin. Like when the famous baseball player Pete Rose got caught betting on baseball. He was barred from the league, barred from the hall of fame, but continued denying it for years and years until he finally admitted to the wrong done. He said "People have to understand I wish this would have never happened. But I can't change it, it's happened. And sitting here in my position, you're just looking for a second chance." I think most of us know what that feels like. I wish I could go back and take back everything I did! But you can't. It's too late.

We all are like Lady MacBeth...who was trying to wash her hands from her part of a murder and moaning “Out damned spot, Out I say! Here’s the smell of blood still; all the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand. And as MacBeth see’s his wife appearing to lose her mind under the weight of her guilt, he says to a doctor “Canst thou not minister to a mind diseased, pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow, raze out the written troubles of the brain and with some oblivious antidote cleanse the stuffed bosom of that perilous stuff which weighs upon the heart?” The doctor responds to all of this by saying “Therein the patient must minister to himself.” Maybe that’s YOUR answer? Rather than deal with your guilt you have filled your life with some sweet oblivious antidotes like overworking, striving for achievement, consuming entertainment, throwing yourself into some hobby... to help you not think about it. These things can distract us but they can’t make our guilt go away. Your objective moral guilt...haunts your life even as white noise in the background that cannot, and will not be muted. So what is the answer? Who can bear our guilt for us? Who can free of us from these broken patterns of trying to shift blame to our fellow man, which just creates chaos, or from the need to constantly medicate our conscience so that we don’t think about it? IS there a way to be set free from the unbearable burden of guilt? YES...and He was born on Christmas. Here is the one thing I want you to leave with today...this is my main point are you ready?

**MAIN POINT:** Grace has come in Christ, so let Him flood you life with sin bearing mercy

**SETTING THE CONTEXT:** If you aren’t already there: please turn in your bibles to Isaiah 52:13. As we have unpacked the servant songs we have seen many unexpected and wonderful things. In Isaiah 42, we learned that the Servant is not only the man of God’s choosing, but is the first man ever who fully delights the heart of the Father and will bring forth justice to the NATIONS (so the whole world and not just Israel). But the way He will do it is with gentleness and tenderness...not with brute force...and He will be successful because God is with Him. God speaking through the prophet...tells the generation of Israel who has been carried away to Babylon, to Exile, that when the Servant comes...blind eyes will open, captives will be set free from dungeons, prisoners will come out of darkness...and in doing so God will glorify Himself.

We learned in Isaiah 49, that though this Savior is coming as one who is meek and lowly, he is a powerful hidden weapon in the hand of God. Nevertheless, the thing He is coming to do is going to involve suffering and frustration. And through this suffering and frustration He will not only bring Israel back to God but the nations. God Himself says that it is too light a thing that Christ Jesus would only reign over Israel...He must take dominion of the nations. And when He comes he will provide for His people all the days of their life...even if it requires creating pastures on mountain tops. And what remains to be answered is...how exactly is all of this going to work? How can someone weak and meek, with all his power hidden, free a lowly nation like Israel from a world super power like Babylon...let alone transform the world powers so that they bow the knee to God most High and to His servant? How can that possibly work? And this morning we get to listen to God’s strange, and unexpected and shocking and glorious answer. Let’s humble our minds and open our hearts...to hear how the heart of God was revealed at Christmas beginning in verse 12, the Word of the Lord

**READING:** Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. As many were astonished at you— his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind— so <sup>d</sup>shall he sprinkle<sup>3</sup> many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths because of him, for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.

Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, <sup>v</sup>who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made his grave with the wicked <sup>w</sup>and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes<sup>8</sup> an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see<sup>9</sup> and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

## **PRAYER:**

**ROAD MAP:** 1.) Who the servant is, 2.) what the servant does, 3.) why the servant has done it and 4.) what that means for us

## **WHO THE SERVANT IS**

1. Let's look together at our bibles. This is a large section of text so hopefully you will understand that I can't develop every detail without teaching for 3 hours. But I can hit the primary things I think.
2. Look back at 52:13, this section begins like the previous servant Songs saying, Behold, my servant. And as Jason pointed out last week, that's not a suggestion, that's a command. But it's a command in this way. It's like if a lawyer walked into a prison cell, and was speaking to a prisoner who had been condemned to life, and said...LOOK AT THIS...this is your paperwork to file an appeal. This is your only hope. LOOK AT THIS. Take this seriously.

3. He says *Behold my servant*...and we have asserted several times and in several ways that the Servant is Jesus Christ of Nazareth. He says *Behold, my servant Jesus will act wisely*. That word “wisely” is capable of various connotations depending on the context, but at it’s heart it has to do with prudent and wise dealings. And that carries with it the assumption that He who deals wisely will obtain success. Jesus will use the best means to obtain the highest ends. And because He does this He shall be high and lifted up and He shall be exalted.
4. Now Isaiah says the Servant will be high and lifted up, it sounds a lot like the vision of God Himself in Isaiah 6. They aren’t the same words, but they convey a similar idea. The level of Jesus’ exaltation will be something like the way God exalts Himself. The servant who is coming...is not going to be a king like other kings...He will be something far greater. Something more like God. He is coming to be the King of kings and the Lord of lords...and all nations will one day bow before His glorious throne.
5. And what’s interesting about God opening with this is that He is choosing to begin at the end. I am going to show you something Israel...I am going to show you something Church of God...that is going to be confusing at first. That is going to be hard to understand. It will eventually become a stumbling block to some, and foolishness to others but listen to my Word...My Servant is going to use the best means to obtain the highest ends and when He does...I am going to exalt Him to my right hand.
6. In other words...I am going to take you deep into the suffering of my chosen Servant in whom my soul delights...and when I do...it’s not because this is a person to be pitied...this is a person to be worshipped. I’m enlarging your vision of what my servant will do to enlarge your praise of Him. And it’s good that he does that...because this vision is going to take a shocking turn.
7. *As many were astonished at you...His appearance was so marred beyond human semblance, and His form beyond that of the children of mankind—so shall he sprinkle many nations*).
  1. So the exalted Servant...who will rule over the hearts and kingdoms of men...is going to become like you Israel. If you weren’t here for the first message in the series...Isaiah is writing to a small remnant of Jews whose cities and temple have been plundered and destroyed...and who are now sitting in captivity in Babylon hundreds of miles from their homeland.
  2. This period in the history of Israel is referred to as the deportation and exile. And it took place about half a millennia before Christ walked the earth. And so Isaiah says just like many people were shocked to find out that your city had been leveled and your temple plundered under the judgement of God...so will people be shocked at him.
  3. This wise and exalted servant is going to be marred...think about what that word means...unnatural disfigurement...ripping and breaking to such an extent that it can never go back to the way it was. His appearance will become so marred that his appearance will become monstrous to the point of ceasing to be human.
  4. As many were shocked at you Israel...shocked that you had been so thoroughly and decisively punished...many will be shocked at how marred my servant will become...He will be marred beyond human semblance...and in a parallel statement his form beyond that of the children of mankind...it is in this way that he shall sprinkle many nations.

5. And you kind of let the paradoxical nature of these pictures sit for a second. The King of all kings...will become the lowest of all servants...by entering the worst of all suffering in order that He might sprinkle many nations. The imagery of sprinkling in the OT has to do with purification or cleansing, but not in the natural sense. The purpose of sprinkling wasn't to wash your hair and your face...it was about ritual purity...it was about being made fit for God.
6. Now it's important to see what this is saying as God will continue unpacking this is in the coming verses...the servant isn't going to be marred for His own sake...he is going to be marred for others. He isn't like the Old Testament priests who needed to be purified themselves and from their own sins that they might sprinkle purifying water on others in God's name. Out of his marring and disfigurement will spring forth the purifying grace that will cleanse the nations.
7. It is His extreme suffering that measures His extreme power to cleanse. In this text, Christ is both priest and sacrifice, and rather than needing to be purified...His blood is pure enough and lavish enough to cleanse the nations. The Lord of Christmas is coming as King, Priest and Sacrifice...maybe that is the reason why at His birth, He is presented with Gold (as for a king), Frankincense (priestly incense) and Myrrh (burial spice).
8. In any case, when the Lord comes, suffers, dies and rises to the place of exaltation at God's right hand...in verse 15 it says Kings shall shut their mouths because of Him.
  1. They shut their mouth. Closing the mouth suggests dumbfounded astonishment...it's a sign of awe and honor. Just as many were shocked in Christ's marring and dying...so shall the nations be shocked at His rising and reigning. Now why does he say kings and not all people?
  2. I think Isaiah is intending to introduce a contrast. In verse 14, the many are the commoners of Israel...the many are the pharisees and sadducees who live under the power of Rome...the many were amazed at how ignobly the Servant dies. The men of ordinary rank despised the Servant in His death, but as a result of that same death, even the most exalted of men will stand in awe of Him.
9. There is probably also a contrast going on between how the nation of Israel will respond to Jesus' death and how the nations (not Israel) will respond. Kings shall shut their mouths...and we know these are gentile kings because Isaiah goes on saying "for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand." Israel has been told...and Israel has heard...but they do not understand. On the other hand...the Gentiles who have no knowledge of God who will what He has done and respond with awe and reverence. Perhaps you remember that the first thing that happens after Jesus yields up His spirit to God...a Roman gentile confesses...truly this man was innocent...truly this man was the Son of God (which is an extremely dangerous thing to say when Caesar is claiming to be the son of god).
10. But this is all here to teach us about who the servant is. He is going to be God's Redeemer King...coming to cleanse the nations to make them fit for the presence of God. And He will do this by entering into suffering and death as a sacrifice for others...in order that He might rise as a priestly Lord, and reign as King of all kings. This is who the servant is...let's now look more closely at what the servant does.

## WHAT THE SERVANT DOES

1. 53:1 opens with a question... *“Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed.”* Now it’s difficult to know exactly who is speaking here. At the end of 52 it was obvious that God was speaking. One might be tempted to assume that the servant is now speaking but if you do, how do you make sense of the plural us...as the self reference...who has believed what he has heard from us? And how do you make sense of verse 2...where it begins talking about the servant in the third person?
  1. I think it makes the most sense that the speaker is the prophet Isaiah, speaking on behalf of the faithful remnant of Israel who will one day witness to the reality that Jesus is the Christ. He is saying who is going to believe this prophecy and all who have believed in this prophecy and proclaim it to others as witnesses.
  2. And then he asks, to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? The arm of the Lord is typically associated with his redeeming power. For instance it was the arm of the Lord that brought Israel out of Egypt. And when you read those two lines together you see that the ones who believe in God’s message delivered by God’s witnesses, are the ones in whom God has manifested His redeeming power. God’s powerful redeeming work is what creates faith in all who believe. So if you are not a Christian...and you find yourself interested in Christianity or interested in the person of Jesus Christ...that may be a profound evidence that the God of the Universes is drawing you to Himself. Don’t resist Him. He want’s to flood your life with sin=bearing grace and mercy.
2. Isaiah continues...verse 2 For He (the Servant) grew up before Him (the Lord whose arm is being revealed) For the Servant grew up before God like a young plant (vulnerable and weak), and like a root out of dry ground (which is actually a kind of miraculous thing to see). When Jesus was born, many miraculous things happened. Angelic appearances...miracles births given to a very old woman (like Abraham’s wife Sarah)...and to a virgin (like when God created the universe ex-nihilo. Prophets were acknowledging that Jesus was the messiah in the temple. Jesus’ career started with so much promise.
3. But surprisingly (verse 3) he was despised and rejected by men...not all men...but most men. The King of kings was not met with acceptance but rejection...He wasn’t adored He was despised. He did not come as a King of glory acquainted with triumph but a man of sorrows acquainted with grief.
4. The Lord of lords did not come as a figure of beauty, who would draw the gaze of the world. It was the opposite...he was like one from whom men hide their faces...he wasn’t loved he was despised...He had in verse 2, no form or majesty that we would look at him or desire him. Jesus did not come into the world looking like the handsome people in the room...I’m not going to name names..he came looking like the more homely men in this room...and again...I’m not going name names...lol.
  1. And rather than going on a rant about how Jesus is displayed in visual cinema, I just want to point out the depth of Jesus’ humiliation, how far he lowered Himself in order to identify with each and every one of us. He became as one from whom men hide their faces...do you know what that looks like? That’s like when you are walking down a busy street, and you see a homeless person with a sign on your side of the street, and you don’t

have any change, and so you just avoid looking at them. You hide your face from them because you don't want to have any interaction with them unless it is to give them something to make yourself feel good. If you can't feel good from the interaction...you won't treat them like a human being worthy of eye contact. That's a person from whom men hide their face. Do you feel alone? Do you feel misunderstood? Do you feel unloved, or invaluable because of your appearance? Jesus, our Savior knows what that feels like. We esteemed him not.

5. I think it's important to note that Isaiah includes Himself and the faithful remnant in this. WE...not just those sinners out there...we did this too. You did this too. Each and every one of you. So at the first level...what Jesus has come to do is to utterly humble Himself in becoming like us. And He was humbled inside and out. He was rejected, rejected, grieved and despised...and even those who would one day love Him...we did not esteem Him for who He is.
6. **So the first thing He has come to do is humble Himself**...but humility can't release us from guilt. Something or someone has to come along who is willing to carry **the burden of our guilt** so that we don't have to. And that is EXACTLY what the servant has come to do. Look back at verse 4
7. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows...why is the eternal son of God experiencing grief and sorrow as one rejected and despised by men? To bear or to carry our sorrows and grief. He didn't come to make Himself feel better...He entered into our suffering to make us feel better...to take our sorrow and grief upon Himself and carry them away.
8. The prophet says when we saw Jesus die on the cross...notice the WE again...we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. What this means is, when we saw the Lord hanging upon a tree, accursed of God according to the Law...we all assumed it was because of His own sins. We thought he was pierced for His transgressions and crushed for His own iniquities.
9. But nothing could be further from the truth. Listen carefully to verse 5...But he was pierced for **OUR** transgressions, not His...ours. We thought he was cursed for His transgressions...turned out He was pierced for ours. He was crushed...why...for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray...wandered off from God and God's ways...we have turned—EVERYONE—to His own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
  1. If I was a curator...and the bible was a museum...I would start and end the tour here and come back to it many times along the way. You guys...this is not familiar. This is not fair. This doesn't make any sense.
  2. Do you know what this is saying? This is saying someone Has come and suffered for the wrong that you have done that you might have peace and that you might be healed.
  3. I have spent a lot of time lingering over this text...reminding myself that it is true. IF this text did not announce this so clearly, and so repeatedly and so specifically...it would be impossible for me to believe that this is really true.
10. When I first became a Christian and God began to flood my life with sin-bearing mercy there was a lot of reconciling I was able to do...mom, I'm sorry for all those nights I spent out

using drugs and all the lies I told you when I got home. Employer...I'm sorry for the work hours I spent not doing my work...roommates I'm sorry for my selfishness...so on and so forth YAY guilt bearing grace.

1. But with time came the realization that I have a lot of sin in my past that cannot and will not be reconciled. There is a lot of sin whose consequences are not going to be reversible in this life.
2. I couldn't say I'm sorry to my Father because my father died before Jesus saved me. I can't reverse the things I had said and done to women in my life that is monstrous and disgusting. I can't undo those things. There are a handful of things that I will not talk about from the pulpit...but I look back on them and I wonder how I could possibly have been so cruel to another human being. And there is nothing I can do about it now...
3. And I sat for years under the unbearable weight of that guilt...staring at this text. Verse 5...he was pierced for our transgressions...God my faith in Jesus can't un-break someone else's broken nose...and this text says I know...your guilt has fallen on me...I was pierced...I was crushed...I was chastised...I was wounded...because the Lord laid your iniquity on me.
4. And I would stare at this like a crazy person...arguing with God...saying I'm guilty...and He'd say yes you were...but I've laid your guilt upon Christ. Yeah but I'm still guilty because I can't undo the effects of my sin and wrestling wrestling wrestling...it finally became clear to me...just as I can't undo the effects of my sin...I also can't undo the Word of His grace. It's that simple. I should be guilty...but I'm not. I should be crushed for what I've done. But He was crushed in my place. And there is nothing I can do about that...for the Word of the Lord has declared it.
  1. Look at how many times he says it...He bore our grief...he carried this sorrow...he was pierced for our sins...he was crushed for our wicked acts...he was chastised to give us peace...he was wounded to heal us...the Lord laid our iniquity upon Him...even though we are the ones who have gone astray.
5. It literally says that...and there is nothing any man can do to annul what God has spoken...or what Christ has done on our behalf. This isn't fair...this isn't what we deserve...this isn't logical or intuitive...this is sheer, unmerited grace. This is self-giving love in it's most explicit form. Putting aside ones own comfort, preferences, and entitlements...in order to serve, bless and lift up another.
6. God loves you because He loves. That's as far down as we can reduce this logic. He set His steadfast love upon His people from before the foundation of the World and determined give us all things, every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus our Lord. Not just peace and healing...but eternal life in the love of God. Christmas day is about celebrating the moment that God's sin-bearing mercy took on flesh in the person of Jesus Christ.
7. And He took on flesh that he might fill our lives with this sin-bearing mercy and to reconcile us to our God forever...to join our life to His life by the Holy Spirit...and to fill us with all the fullness of God.
8. If you have the guilt of sin weighing heavily on your heart this morning...I would invite you to come and lay that guilt down upon the God of mercy and let Him take it away.

11. So the servant has come to humble Himself by becoming like the least of us...and in having done so he has come to take the full weight of all the guilt for our sin upon Himself...not within Himself as though God's nature could be joined to sin...but upon Himself in the sense that He took the punishment that our sins deserved. And He did this as the innocent righteous sufferer let's quickly look at verses 7-10
12. He was oppressed and he was afflicted, yet he opened not His mouth, like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep before it's shearers is silent so he opened not His mouth...I think the idea here is that He was oppressed...he didn't do anything wrong...his crucifixion was a miscarriage of justice but he didn't resist it. He opened not his mouth.
13. By oppression...by a misuse of the law...he was taken away...and as for his generation... who even took the time to reflect on the meaning of these things.
  1. Who even gave a second thought to the fact that he was cut off out of the land of the living, and stricken for someone else transgressions...the transgression of my people.
  2. Imagine that...the Lord of glory...unconsidered by His own people. Do you consider your Lord? Do you let the reality of His life-transforming grace influence how you treat people...how you make decisions about how you will use your time? Or do you only think about Him on Sundays?
  3. He was murdered by His people for crimes He did not commit...and once he was dead... who could find someone who was reflecting on the profound meaning of these events.
14. And so verse 9 though he was condemned as a criminal...he was ultimately innocent. They made his grave with the wicked (grave and death are synonyms, that's not talking about his tomb). He died between two thieves but then Jesus was laid in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea...even though he had done no violence and there was no deceit in his mouth. Bottom line...Jesus died the death of a criminal...even though He was innocent.
15. So what is this saying about what the Servant has come to do? This is saying that Christmas morning gave birth to the Son of God...utterly humbled...coming to bear the burden of our guilt and to take the wrath and death we deserve upon Himself...and to die for us despite His own innocence. This is what Christmas is about. This is why the Servant will come into the world. But let's close with a brief reflection on why He has done this.

#### WHY THE SERVANT HAS DONE IT

1. Verse 10...there was something far greater going on than just a miscarriage of justice in the death of Jesus Christ. What took place was the will of the Father. Did the Romans kill Jesus? Yes. Did the Jew's in a less direct way kill Jesus? Yes. But in a way that no one noticed or perceived...God Himself was the author of all these events.
2. In other words...Christ came into the world to die for your sins and to fill your life with guilt bearing grace...because God wanted Him to. God wanted to show us grace. God doesn't love you because Jesus died for you...Jesus died for you BECAUSE God loves you. That was the hoop I had to jump through in order to actually believe these things.
3. But not only that...God didn't provide an offering for guilt...he didn't send Christ to die against His will...He sent Christ to die in order that He shall see His offspring and prolong His days...and so that the will of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. Christ entered into His humiliation and suffering in order that He might rise in Triumph over sin, and death.

4. By His offspring he means all those who are born of God...this is a spiritual offspring...in which we become sons of the same Father. Through Jesus' atoning death he won't just have victory...He will have satisfaction! Verse 11: Out of the anguish of His soul he shall see and be satisfied.
  5. What is going to make him feel this way? By His knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be what? Accounted righteous. Does that mean you are going to feel that way all the time? No. I means God has declared it over you through your faith in Jesus Christ...and what God has declared...no man can invalidate.
  6. WE shall be declared righteous...and he shall bear our iniquities because of what the righteous servant has done. And because of what He has done God is going to give Him the name above every name...He will make Him the King above every King...and His glory will be the glory of His people...and His riches He will divide with His people. He will be the great King and the great provider for all who trust in Him...and God has exalted Him because he poured out his soul to death...because He was numbered with the transgressors, a sentence Jesus quotes of Himself on the night he was betrayed...because he bore the sin of many...and makes intercession for the transgressors.
  7. The old Wesleyan Hymn reads: "5 bleeding wounds he bears, received on calvary, they pour effectual prayers, they ever plead for me: "Forgive, forgive they cry, Forgive, forgive they cry...this ransomed sinner must not die."
  8. This blood is meant to cover all of your sins...for all of your life...and for all of time.
  9. When the angels appear at night singing to shepherds...we bring glad tidings of great joy... this is what it's talking about. A helpless vulnerable baby has been born...who will become a meek and lowly servant...who will make Himself weak even though He is a powerful weapon of the Lord...who will suffer as a sacrifice for sinners...but in doing so will bring the cleansing power of God to the nations through the gospel of Jesus Christ...rejoice.
  10. But this is why the Servant has done these things...for the pleasure of the Father...for the satisfaction of the Savior...and the redemption of His people...with whom He intends to freely give all things. Don't bear your guilt for one moment longer...when God has called you to lay all your guilt and all your shame...on the sacred head of the Savior.
- Grace has come in Christ...so let His sin bearing mercy flood your life.

#### WHAT THIS MEANS FOR US

1. Admit your sins to God and believe in Jesus Christ whom God has sent...and open your heart to Him by allowing the sin bearing mercy of Christ flood your life.
2. You don't have to blame shift...there is atonement for your sins..
3. You don't have to escape...there is free and abundant release from your guilt in Jesus' mercy (what does this look like).

**COMMUNION:** This meal is more of a sign than a symbol. Yes they represent something...so there is a symbolic element to them...but they are a sign in that what they declare has truly come to pass. Grace has come in the broken body and shed blood of Jesus and who are weary of bearing their guilt are invited to come to the table and participate in all the benefits of redemption.