

A Man Like No Other

Isaiah 53 Bible Study Notes – January 8, 2024

Introduction

Welcome everyone.

Request concentration – sit still, take your bible, don't watch TV or engage your phone, focus on the study, look into my face, be here. Thank you.

At the end, I have a homework for all of us so please remind me in case I forget. [7-day prayer outline on HUMILITY. Don't forget].

Before we go into our text, there are two passages that I want us to look at from which we can find some context for tonight's bible study. The first is

2Co 11:3 “**BUT I FEAR**, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be **corrupted** from the **simplicity** that is in Christ. 4 For if he that cometh preacheth **ANOTHER JESUS**, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive **ANOTHER SPIRIT**, which ye have not received, or **ANOTHER GOSPEL**, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.”

AMP/EASV/MSG/

BUT I FEAR – Apostle Paul is afraid for the Corinthian brethren. And what is his fear? That they are being removed from the **SIMPLICITY** that is in Christ through corruption.

Christ is simple, not complex

Christ is simple, not complicated

Christ is simple, not overbearing

Christ is simple, not excessive

Christ is simple, not showy

The church in Corinth, just like the church of our day, was being corrupted such that believers were no longer simple in their practice of faith. They had become complex and complicated. There was eye service and pretence. There was hypocrisy and hero worship. There was contention and unforgiveness.

How manage these things were happening? Verse 4 tells us that three things had happened to their faith. The Jesus of the Bible had been exchanged with ANOTHER JESUS. The gospel of Jesus Christ had been changed with another gospel. The cumulative effect of ANOTHER JESUS and ANOTHER GOSPEL was that the brethren were been driven by ANOTHER SPIRIT different from the Holy Spirit.

The phrases "another Jesus", "another gospel" and "another spirit" refer to the false teachings that false apostles are spreading then and now. Many of today's pastors are not preaching the same Jesus that Paul and the early apostles preached. They are not proclaiming the same gospel that the early accepted, which is the good news of God's grace, forgiveness, and eternal life through faith in Christ alone. They are not imparting the same Spirit that the early church received when they believed in Christ.

False preachers are either adding to or subtracting from the teachings and commandments of Christ. They mix the ancient words of Christ with elements of African traditional religion, paganism,

philosophy, and human wisdom. The biggest ones often claim to have some special revelations, visions, or prophecies that either contradict or supersede the Scriptures. They can add some works, rituals, ceremonies, or traditions as requirements for salvation or acceptance by God. By exhibiting false signs, wonders, and miracles they impress and deceive the unsuspecting. Through these, they change the focus of the gospel from Christ and His cross to themselves and their achievements.

Let me tell you what the gospel is not. It is not about helping you to get visas. It is not about how you can make more money. It is not emotional intelligence. It is not breakthrough. It is not dominion. It is not prosperity. It is not entrepreneurship. It is not even discipleship. It is Christ and Christ alone. In other words, this thing I'm hearing did Christ preach it? Does Christ exemplify it in His life and ministry? Does it promote the Lordship of Christ?

What we have today is a different kind of Christianity that is at variance with what the early church believed. Another Jesus is being presented through another gospel which is producing, in most of us, another spirit that we are not conscious of.

Please turn with me to Romans 8:9. "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. **Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.**"

The phrase SPIRIT OF CHRIST refers to the Holy Spirit. However, this particular phrase occurs only twice in the entire bible. I do believe that anyone who receives the Holy Spirit must speak in tongues as that was the way the early apostles could determine whether the Holy Spirit had come or not. However, tongues are NOT the evidence that you are filled with the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:9 refers to something deeper than tongues. Apostle Paul is saying that the Holy Spirit produces Christ-in-you. The work of the Holy Spirit is to make you look and talk like Christ. The Holy Spirit produces the fruit of Christ in your heart. The way we know that you have the Holy Spirit is that you are looking and talking like Christ day-by-day.

If so be that the Spirit of God dwells in you; the Holy Spirit will produce and lead you to manifest the fruits of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is the evidence that you have the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of Christ which is the Holy Spirit will produce in you some measure of the likeness to Christ, and lead you to earnestly desire that it may be perfected in you. Apostle Paul is emphatic that if you are not interested in this blessing of salvation, you are none of His.

Let me read you a quote from a bible commentary on this verse. I'll also put it in the chat room for you to meditate on. I'm trying to prove that what we're calling 'spirit' or "spiritual" today is another spirit at work in many of us and we don't know.

["The phrase "none of His" is a test of piety that is easily applied, and this settles the question. If a man is not influenced by the meek, pure, and holy spirit of the Lord Jesus, if he is not conformed to his image, if his life does not resemble that of the Saviour, HE IS A STRANGER TO RELIGION.](#)

[No test could be more easily applied, and none is more decisive. IT MATTERS NOT WHAT ELSE HE MAY HAVE. He may be loud in his professions, amiable in his temper, bold in his zeal, or active in promoting the interests of his own party or denomination in the church; but if he has not the temper of the Saviour, and does not manifest his spirit, he is a sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. May all who read this honestly examine themselves; and may they have that which is the source of the purest felicity, the spirit and temper of the Lord Jesus."](#)

So, this is the context of our study tonight. We want to go back to the Jesus of the bible because we have evidence that the Jesus being popularly preached on our pulpits is NOT the same as the Jesus of Nazareth.

Can someone with a strong connection and good diction read Isaiah 53 for us? I'll make a few remarks then we'll together harvest your meditations on this passage.

After the passage is read...

This prophecy was given 600 years before Jesus was born and it describes with great detail and accuracy what the Lord will go through as a man on earth. The passage presents a SUFFERING MESSIAH and is painful to read. But if we do not soak ourselves in the sufferings of Christ, we will not experience His glory.

Before we study this passage together, I want to suggest two reasons why we do not like associating with the Suffering Messiah. The first is that there is a conspiracy of silence in the church today not to talk about Christ as the *Suffering Messiah*. Yet the early church did not preach about the things we're preaching about today. 1 Co 1:23 says "But **we preach Christ crucified**, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness". Christ crucified, not Christ glorified."

[Describe the backdrop of the Catholic Church in Oke-Bola, Ibadan]

But there's another reason: if you had an auntie that was unfortunately raped or an uncle that was mistaken for a thief and beaten up in public by a mob while returning from a vigil, do you know that you will never raise their mishap with them anytime you see them? As human beings, we do not like seeing the people we love suffer at the hands of others. We shrink away from associating with their humiliation. I think that's what's going on. But that humanness on our part is earthly wisdom when it comes to the gospel. The gospel has no power whatsoever once we take the sufferings of Christ while He walked the face of the earth.

Most of us want the blessings of Abraham but we don't want the sufferings of Abraham. [List his sufferings]. We want to dance David's dance but we don't want David's pain. We want signs before we believe but Jesus said any generation that wants signs is an evil generation.

Isaiah and all the prophets saw the incarnation, ministry, death, and resurrection as the solution to the disobedience of Israel. In speaking about Christ to their generation, they demanded people look at Christ as the provision for their reconciliation to God. All roads in heaven lead to Christ. No human being can find the Father except through Christ. You cannot rise from your coffin except the Jesus Christ of the Bible lives in you. You cannot be clinging to another Jesus and expect to walk the streets of gold at the end of your life. So this is the background of our study, we can now start.

Isaiah 53:1

[Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?](#)

What is the first question the prophet asked here? Who has believed our report? The report of the Lord is not I am healed. The report of the Lord is not I am free. The report of the Lord is Jesus, and the prophet is asking who believes Jesus here. Please do not rush to think you believe.

Joh 12:37 **But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him:**

Do you know miracles will not make you to believe? Some of us say, 'Lord, if only you can do this thing for me, I'll believe you, I'll serve you'. But do you know it's not true? Jesus did so many miracles

yet none of the recipients of those miracles believed Him. Why couldn't they believe? Read the next verses

38 That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? 39 Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, 40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.

They couldn't believe because a negative prophecy was operating in their hearts. It is very difficult to believe in Jesus. People who have eyes can't see Him even if He shows up in their bedroom. Those with ears can't hear Him even if His voice is as loud as a trumpet. There is a hardness of heart that makes it difficult for people to buy into the message of Christ. And until you believe, you won't be converted.

41 These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.

What is the glory of Christ? What is the glory of a ministry? What is the glory of a pastor? What kind of growth did Jesus have? How many believed Him even when they were trooping after Him? A good preacher of Jesus would continue preaching the message of Christ not minding that nobody believes what he is saying. That is the glory of Christ.

The glory of Christ in ministry is not miracles even though He's a miracle worker per excellence. The glory of Christ is not followership, though crowds will throng around Him. If you cannot associate with this, you cannot be a preacher of Christ. If you're looking for fame, if you're looking for accolades, if you're looking for wealth in ministry, you cannot be a preacher of Christ. The glory of Christ is conversion, finding those who would be able to believe. Let's read about this in verses 42 and 43.

42 Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: 43 For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

Isaiah asked WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT? Many of the pastors in Jesus' time believed Christ but they DID NOT CONFESS HIM. Why? Eye-service. Their loyalty to the system was stronger than their loyalty to Christ. They felt what they would lose in promoting Christ was greater than what they would gain. Let me give you an example of what I'm saying. Do you know that in nearly every congregation, any pastor or leader who speaks the truth will be relegated in the assembly? And they will make you feel it until you drop the power of the truth to tag along. The voices of truth are thinning out but we must rise up to take back our place as custodians of truth in our generation. May the Lord help us.

Isaiah 53:2

For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

The Jesus of the Bible is not attractive. He stripped Himself of every trace natural beauty and earthly assets such that there really is nothing about Him that can incentivize you to believe Him. If I want you to believe me, I'll do all the things necessary for you to believe. That's the way of earthly wisdom. The way of Christ is the exact opposite. There is nothing you can find in Christ that would trip you up to believe Him. Nothing.

Isaiah 53:3

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. {we hid...: or, he hid as it were his face from us: Heb. as an hiding of faces from him, or, from us}

Notice it started by saying He IS despised and then later He WAS despised. That's the way the entire prophecy flows. He speaks about the appearance of Christ in the future, in the present and in the past to tell you that Jesus transcends time. The way Christ was despised then is the same way that He is being despised now. Nothing has changed. He is a man rejected by men. A man of sorrows. A man well-acquainted with grief. If a generation popularly endorses and accepts a Jesus, most likely the Jesus they have received is not the Jesus of the bible.

AMPC/CEB/EASV/NOG

Let me give you practical ways Jesus is being rejected. How much time do we devote to listening to Jesus personally and in our churches? Do you know we can spend 3 hours on Sunday doing everything but hear the words of Christ? Do you know that nobody sleeps in a church that sings? But do you also know that in the history of the church, revival has never come through music? Do you we exalt praying to God over and above listening to God?

Isaiah 53:4 -5

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. {wounded: or, tormented} {stripes: Heb. bruise}

Let me minister to someone. Jesus has borne your griefs. Jesus has carried away your sorrows. If he carried away your griefs, you don't need to live in grief anymore. If he carried away your sorrow, you don't need to live in sorrow again. Jesus was wounded for your sins. If He was wounded for your sins, you don't have to live in sin anymore. Jesus was bruised for our iniquities. If he was bruised for our iniquities, we don't have to commit iniquity anymore. Praise God.

The chastisement of our peace has been laid on Him. In other words, whatever it would take for us to have peace of mind in this perverse world, Christ has paid the price already. Hallelujah. I'm still ministering to someone. Verse 5 says by His stripes we are healed. Peter refers to this and says the healing is for our spirits and our souls. As we give ourselves to Christ, our souls are restored for His is Saviour and Bishop of our souls. But Matthew 8:16 & 17 contain an interesting dimension to what Jesus did for us.

Mt 8:16 "When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, AND HEALED ALL THAT WERE SICK: 17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses."

Jesus is OUR Great Physician. Sickness is an attack on our bodies. Sickness is an affliction. Jesus came to heal every one of us. He does not use sickness to play with His children. There is a prophecy about your healing. Your healing has been prophesied 600 years before Jesus came. The Bible says Jesus HIMSELF took our infirmities. He carried away all our sicknesses. By His stripes we are healed. This is the word of the Lord to you tonight.

Isaiah 53:6

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. {laid...: Heb. made the iniquity of us all to meet on him}

But there's still a problem. We keep turning to our own way. Most of us still continue to do our own thing. At home, we're meant to live for Jesus. We're not meant to do our own things. In church, we're meant to live for Jesus. Have you not found that hardly do we consult with Jesus over the order of service? Aren't we all turning to our own way? Most of us live independent of Jesus. Hardly do we seek His face to learn His way. It is as if we believe we can do without Him. We even use Him to bless what we have decided to do. Brother, sister, you're going astray. Disobedience is a sin. Half obedience is equally a sin.

Prayers from Romans 15:30-32

Don't forget 7-day prayer outline on HUMILITY.

Vigil Friday January 12

Next bible study Monday Feb 5

Jesus- A Man Like No Other (Part 2)

Welcome everyone!

Our topic is a serious one and the passages we shall be meditating upon make us see that Jesus is a man like no other.

At the end of our study tonight, I shall be sharing a free booklet on REDISCOVERING THE GOSPEL to deepen our understanding and fellowship with the Lord. Should I forget, please make sure to remind me.

Let us start with Luke 4:16-30.

Luke 4:16

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. 17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, 18 **The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, 19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. 20 And he closed the book,** and he gave it again to the minister and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. 21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

Before we continue reading to verse 30, there are two things I want you to see. The **message** of Christ and the **reaction** to the message of Christ. Let's continue reading.

Luke 4:22 And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son? 23 And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country. 24 And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country. 25 But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land; 26 But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow. 27 And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian. 28 **And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, 29 And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong. 30** But he passing through the midst of them went his way.

In order to know who Jesus is and what He stands for, we need to understand how people react to His message. The reaction of the people in the synagogue in this passage is the standard practice when Jesus is preached. What was their reaction? SHARP REJECTION. In rejecting His message, they rejected Him. Whenever we reject the message of Christ, we reject Him altogether. Why did they reject Christ and His message?

Let me give you some of the reasons I can find in this passage.

- **They rejected Him because He presented Himself as THE Messiah.** The people of Nazareth wanted to kill Jesus for preaching the good news because they did not accept Him as the Messiah, the only Son of God, and the fulfilment of the Scriptures. They knew that this

meant that Jesus was the ONLY way back to the Father. People don't want Jesus as the ONLY way, they want as many ways as possible to God. They fight Jesus because He has reduced the path to God to only one – Himself. Without Jesus, there is no heaven for anybody no matter how many times they pray daily.

- **They rejected Him because He extended the grace and salvation of God to Gentiles.** How do we know this? When He cited two examples from the Old Testament where God showed mercy to a Sidonian widow and a Syrian leper, who were both non-Jews, while many Jews suffered from famine and disease at that time. The Jews hated this. They wanted a God that did not include Gentiles. But Jesus has opened the door and salvation is no more limited to Israel, but to Gentiles as well. Jesus is inclusive, not exclusive. Jesus is for all, not just for some. Jesus is not a tribal warlord. He is not a chauvinist. He is not an ethnic champion.
- **They rejected Him because of His message.** The message of Jesus produced a deadly reaction in those who heard Him. This is a simple test to know whether you're a preacher of Christ or not. The message of Christ produces an instant reaction. What was in the message that generated such a deadly reaction? I thought the message was one of life and hope. Look at verse 18 again. The message of Jesus is a relief to the poor, isn't it? Isn't it a message to those who are brokenhearted, blind, bruised by the challenges of life or bound in the chains of captivity? Why would a great and positive message like this be rejected outright by a generation? How could proclaiming liberty, sight, and comfort to the needy become an offence to a generation?

Jesus' message in Luke 4:18 is so positive and so beneficial to the hearers in that He's offering them what they don't have. Why then did they want to kill Him for preaching what appears to me to be good news? Why is it that the world is intolerant of the message of Jesus?

The reason why the world is intolerant of the message of Jesus is that it is a message of repentance, faith, and obedience. It calls you and me to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. It demands that we follow His commands and examples, commands and examples which are usually contrary to the ways of the world.

The message of Jesus exposes the darkness and evil of the world, but the world hates the light and the truth. The message reveals the love and grace of God, but the world hates the gift and the giver.

The message of Jesus is a message of life and hope, but the world chooses death and despair. The message of Jesus challenges the pride and prejudice of people who think that they are more deserving of God's favour than others.

Jesus was rejected in the synagogue on the sabbath day. Jesus was rejected in a religious assembly. Jesus is still being rejected in most of our religious gatherings today. If Jesus is rejected, His followers would not be accepted. You can't alter this fact and not land in hell. If you're being rejected by the world you live in, rejoice. You're a follower of Christ and great is your reward in heaven.

Let me just point out 2 more things about Luke 4:18 and then we'll move on.

18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, 19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

The anointing is for the preaching of the gospel. The anointing is not in water, oil or mantle. The anointing is not for visas. It is not for money. It is not for marrying people and giving birth to children. The anointing is for the preaching of the gospel. If you're not preaching the gospel, then there is no anointing on you. You may have oil on your head and have no anointing in your life.

How do you know you're preaching the gospel? When the message you preach produces a reaction on the part of those hearing you. The gospel is not for laughter. It is not for making money. It is for the rescuing of souls, hearts that have been broken, lives that are being bruised, and deliverance for captives. That is serious business.

If you're not preaching the gospel of Jesus and you claim to be anointed, you have been anointed by another spirit. When the Spirit came upon Jesus, the Holy Ghost anointed Him to preach the gospel. If you are not preaching the gospel of Jesus, whatever anointing you claim to carry is fake and from the devil. If you're not preaching the gospel of Christ and you're performing miracles, you're a sorcerer. If you're not preaching the gospel of Christ and you're going up and down to "decree and declare", you're a soothsayer and a false prophet.

Please hear me. The anointing is for the preaching of the gospel. The anointing is the infusion of the Holy Spirit into your life. The anointing comes about as a result of intimacy with God. As you're listening with a diligent heart to this study tonight, there is an anointing coming down upon you. It changes you from the inside.

That is what our Lord and Master said. It is the preaching of the gospel that delivers the captives from their captivity. Deliverance is not a service. Deliverance is not an activity. Deliverance occurs when you hear, understand and believe the gospel of Christ. You can go for deliverance 100 times, until you hear and believe the gospel, you will remain in chains.

Those who are tricking you to go for deliverance somewhere are assisting the devil. You may even land in the occult if you're not careful.

Deliverance occurs in your life when you hear and believe the message of Christ. But there's one more point I want to make in Luke 4:18 – 19 before we go on. Jesus quoted Isaiah from Isaiah 61:1-2 but he omitted something quite crucial. Can somebody please read Isa 61:1-2 for us? What phrase did Jesus omit?

“...and the day of vengeance of our God...”

Jesus has two sides to His earthly ministry. The first began with His first coming and continues up to now. Jesus was born into a manger as the **SUFFERING MESSIAH**. He was a Suffering Messiah through Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and He is still the Suffering Messiah up to now especially as His followers are being killed all day long all over the earth.

When He returns in glory with His holy angels, He will appear no more as the Suffering Messiah but as the **CONQUERING KING**. For now, Jesus has presented Himself to us only as the Suffering Messiah. This is the part of Himself that is revealed in the scriptures. He has concealed Himself as the Conquering King.

When the apostles wanted to know whether He would restore the political kingdom to Israel, He flatly told them that that wasn't what He came to do now. Jesus is the Suffering Messiah. The Person sitting on the throne of God is a LAMB. But He is coming back to reign as the LION OF JUDAH.

This distinction is not clear to many preachers today. In Luke 4 and throughout His earthly stay, Jesus emphasizes His role as the Suffering Messiah who came to bring salvation and healing to the poor,

the brokenhearted, the captives, and the blind. Jesus did not present Himself to the Jews as the Conquering King who would overthrow the Roman oppressors and restore the earthly kingdom of Israel.

Jesus knew that His mission was to die on the cross and rise again, not to lead a political revolt. Jesus is not a politician. Yes, His followers may occupy any public office of any government and be members of any political party as they wish under His overall leadership, but Jesus Himself is not a politician neither does He play politics with the souls of men.

Jesus has announced the acceptable year of the Lord or the day of Jubilee. He has not announced the day of vengeance but He will do that when He returns to crush all political and spiritual kingdoms here on earth. Jesus intentionally avoided quoting the part about the day of vengeance of our God in which the wicked would experience God's judgment at the end of the age. Jesus has come to offer mercy and grace first and to leave room for the possibility that some of His enemies might repent and be saved. When He returns, He will execute God's wrath on His enemies at that time.

The acceptable year of the Lord is the day that the Lord has made. That song we sing, *"This is the day that the Lord has made"* does not refer to a birthday party, a wedding ceremony, or some social function. No. Jesus Christ is the day that the Lord has made. The day of Christ is the year of Jubilee, the year that debts are cancelled, slaves are freed, lands are restored, and God's grace is made abundant to all.

Jesus has declared the year of the Lord's favour upon your life. You no longer have to go about broken-hearted about the economy or the challenges that you face. Jesus has proclaimed your deliverance; the prison doors have been flung open. You should get out of any jail the devil may have pushed you into. You're no longer a slave of sin. You're no longer a slave of depression. You're no longer a slave of anger. You're no longer a slave of lust and immorality. You're no longer a slave of demons.

With Jesus, you have entered your year of Jubilee. The Lord is not screaming vengeance over you. All of us have sinned and done things that we are ashamed of. God is not calling for vengeance, but He is insisting on repentance. The Lord has brought us into a spiritual Jubilee, a new era of God's grace and forgiveness for all who believe in Him. You have to accept His liberty. Praise God.

At last month's study, we learnt together that the church of Jesus Christ has been invaded by cultists and the occult. Another Jesus is being preached via another gospel which is simply a system of popular teachings which has been adopted by many preachers today not knowing that they are wittingly or unwittingly being taken down by a satanic plot against the church.

Another gospel is producing another spirit in most of us which is not the Spirit of Christ.

The important thing is that we recognize that Jesus was the Messiah that Isaiah prophesied about and that He came to bring us good news, liberty, sight, and comfort through His life, death, and resurrection. The apostles preached only the SUFFERING MESSIAH.

Most of us do not know that we are practising another religion made by man. Most of us don't know that what we have accepted is a gospel made by man for man. The times we live in are no different from the times of Aaron and Jeroboam. What happened back then? Let's quickly read Exodus 32:1-6 and 1 Kings 12:25-33. But I want us to take Gal 3:1 from different versions beginning with KJV.

Ga 3:1 "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?"

Let's read it in other versions – AMPC/CJB/ERV/EASVTLB/MSG/VOICE

The apostles fully preached the doctrine of Christ and detailed His sufferings in such a way that it might be said that Jesus was crucified among them. You shouldn't allow false prophets and false apostles to lead you blindly and unresistingly on to their own destruction. In fact, by now you should be changing the preachers you're listening to.

With this important distinction and with this background let us now go back to finish our meditation on Isaiah beginning from verse 7 to the end.

Isaiah 53:7

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

Visualize the Lord being oppressed and afflicted. What this means is that Jesus endured injustice and pain from His enemies. Our Lord and Master did not open His mouth. He is not like most of us who are always talking, and always complaining. He did not complain. He did not defend Himself. He did not retaliate against His oppressors. He fully trusted in God's will and plan and accepted His fate with patience and obedience.

Jesus is described as a lamb, as a sheep. He is like a sheep that is silent while its wool is cut off. Jesus, the One we follow is not a dragon. He is not a tiger. He does not curse. He does not abuse. He does not go on the attack. In all situations, He is always found innocent and harmless. His silence was the ultimate expression of His humility and submission to God's will. There's simply not a man like Jesus in the whole wide world!

Isaiah 53:8

He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

Jesus was put to death in a violent and unjust way, under the pretence of a legal trial. He was tried 5 times in four different courts, courts which were illegally constituted in the dead of night and each of which had biased judges except Pilate who should all have recused themselves. Even Pilate who ordered His execution said "I find no fault in this man". So why did he get Him killed if there was no legal or factual basis to condemn Him?

All that Jesus did, He did not for His own sins, but for mine and yours. Jesus was put to death for our transgressions, the transgression of God's people.

It is this event that Prophet Isaiah screamed about. What was his cry? WHO SHALL DECLARE HIS GENERATION? In other words, who were those who protested the humiliation of Jesus in His generation? NOBODY. Nobody associates with the Suffering Messiah. No one is interested in talking about Him. There were no street protests with the hashtag #justice4jesus (J4J)!

As it happened then, so it is happening now. Who is that preacher who enjoys talking about this Jesus? Who cares about this Jesus? When He was dying in this way, who could have imagined that He had any future again? Yet His death was the ultimate sacrifice that paid the penalty for our sins and brought us forgiveness and reconciliation with God.

Isaiah 53:9

And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

The humility of Jesus is exceptional. Indeed, He is the world record holder for humility, and no human being will ever be able to break His record. Why do I say this? Even in death, He continued to be humble. Do you know if I was Jesus and if I'd agreed with the Father to be crucified, I'd have insisted on being crucified alone? I would want to be the star of the show, the hero at my funeral. But not so with Jesus. He was crucified between two thieves and mocked as a false king. Once He died, He was assigned a grave with the wicked, meaning that He was to be buried among the criminals and sinners as if He were one of them. Can you imagine?

This is a man who had done no violence and whose mouth had no deceit of any kind. Jesus did not die as a hero and He did not get a rich man's funeral. Oh, if only we could know Him! Oh, if only we can see Him. Isaiah saw Him and patterned his life after Christ. Do you know that as exceptional and as glorious as Jesus was, He didn't mind associating with common criminals? Do you know that while Jesus was here on earth, He didn't demand extraordinary treatment from the Father even when He deserved it? But here lies the contrast and irony of Christ which reflects both His humiliation and His exaltation. While He was treated as a wicked man by His enemies, He was honoured as a righteous man by His friends. He was buried in a borrowed tomb, but He did not stay there for long. He rose again from the dead on the third day, proving that He was the Son of God and the Savior of the world. Hallelujah!

The Bible says if the princes of this world had known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. Beloved, the Lord's hand is upon us. What people call humiliation is actually humility if you embrace it. There is nothing you take for Christ that would not lead to your being glorified. Those who hang on a cross will sit on the throne. Those who allow a crown of thorns to be placed on their brow will surely wear the crown of gold on the last day. Let us make up our minds to declare His generation today. We are not earthlings. By choosing the path of the cross, we are not failures. We are not losers. We are only reiterating that we KNOW that the way up is not up but down. The way to go upwards is to grow downwards. If Jesus did it in a body of flesh, you can do it too. He lives in you.

We shall conclude the study here so we can take your meditations. You can take the remaining 3 verses on your own.

The next Monthly Interactive Bible Study is Monday, March 4 by 9pm. Book it in your diary and invite others.

Talk briefly about the booklet I'll be posting your free copy in the chat room if possible. If not, please text Bro Kolajo and he'll send it to you. We'll also post it on other channels.

Isaiah 53:10

Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. {thou...: or, his soul shall make an offering}

Isaiah 53:11

He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

Isaiah 53:12

Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;
because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and
he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

(KJV)