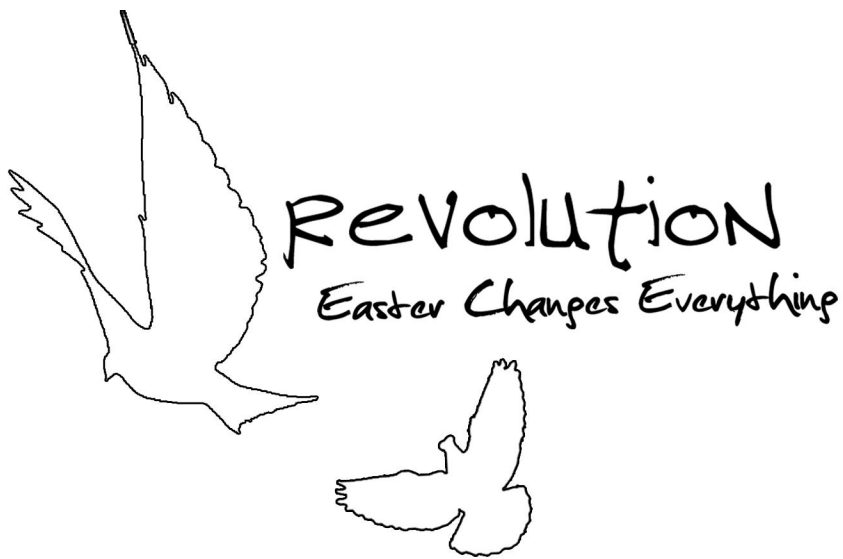


Celebration - Sunday 8:45 am
Elevation - Sunday 10:45 am

April 5th, 2009
Pastor David Mitchell

Palm Sunday
Unexpected Revolution
Isaiah 52, 53



THE UNEXPECTED REVOLUTION

When Jesus entered Jerusalem on what we call “Palm Sunday,” we learn how unexpected His presence and mission was to the people of that day, and to us today. Isaiah predicted this event around 700 years before Jesus entered Jerusalem. In a very simple way, the following is what Isaiah’s written portrait of Jesus may mean to us today.

His plan will surprise us—we must remain faithful to it.
Isaiah 52:13-15, Just as many were astonished at you, *My people...*

His presence may disappoint us—we must accept it.
Isaiah 53:1-3, He has no *statel*y form or majesty that we should look upon Him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him, he was despised and forsaken of men...

His mission is to spiritually renew us—will you receive it?
Isaiah 53:4-6

- He bore our grief.
- He carried our sorrows.
- He was smitten of God.
- He was pierced for our transgressions.
- He was crushed for our iniquities.
- He was chastened for our well being.
- He was scourged for our healing.
- Our sins fell on Him.

DIGGING DEEPER IN ISAIAH 53

This is one of the richest chapters teaching us about Jesus' sacrifice of for our sins. I encourage you to read through it this week in preparation for "Good Friday" and so you can appreciate all the more what Jesus accomplished for our sins and new life.

I am quite taken by **Isaiah 53:4, 5** which provides a very detailed and repetitive description of what Jesus had to endure for us because we were sheep who rebelled against Him. Reflect on why Jesus suffered this way and what each line says will be our benefit.

He bore our grief.

"Bore" means to bear or carry our sins.

Read **Isaiah 53: 11**. What does it teach you about Jesus bearing your sins?

Read **Leviticus 16:22**. What bore people's sins in the past?

What does **Micah 7:18, 19** say will happen to your sins when they are forgiven?

He carried our sorrows.

"Sorrows" can refer to physical, mental and emotional pain. Describe a time in your life when Jesus carried your sorrow for you?

Pray for "sorrows" you now have that you want for Him to carry for you.

He was smitten of God.

"Smitten" means to strike, kill, beat, slay, ravage, destroy, attack.

In this verse, who did that to Jesus?

What was the responsibility of man and God in Jesus' death from **Acts 2:22-23**?

He was pierced for our transgressions.

"Pierced" can refer to a knife being driven in someone and twisted.

What did **Zechariah 12:10** predict about this, around 400 BC?

What then happened in **John 19:34**?

Why did this happen to Jesus?

He was crushed for our iniquities.

"Crushed" can refer to spiritual and emotional needs.

What does **Isaiah 53:10** also say?

What did David pray for in **Psalms 51:8, 9**? Have you prayed for this?

He was chastened for our well being.

"Well being" is completion and fulfillment—entering into a state of wholeness and unity, a restored relationship.

Describe a time in your life when Jesus provided "well being" or peace to you spiritually, physically, emotionally or relationally.

The idea is one of peace. Read Aaron's prayer and make it your own in **Numbers 6:24-27**.

He was scourged for our healing.

What happened to Jesus in **John 19:1-3** that fulfills this?

"Scourged" refers to leather straps with pieces of metal attached so they penetrate to the internal organs.

Our sins fell on Him.

Are there any remaining sins you want to take from your life and let them "fall on" Jesus?

Pray for that now since He paid such a high price for you.

Thank Him now for His great sacrifice and the gracious gift of taking your place in this suffering.

