

The Daily Bread of Life

Feed your household with the bread that endures to eternal life.
Feast on the words of God and works of Jesus.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The Text Isaiah 53:10

Yet it was the **LORD'S will** to crush him and cause him to suffer,
and though the LORD makes his life a **guilt offering**,
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,
and the **will of the LORD** will prosper in his hand.

Keys to Understanding

The Lord's will. Literally, in Hebrew, "It pleased God to make him suffer." As we recall our Lord's suffering, we are reminded that it was God's pleasure to suffer to save us.

Guilt offering. Recalling the sacrifices of the Old Testament, this was a sacrifice made to take away sin and restore whatever wrong had been done. A life had to be offered, and a payment had to be made. Along with the sacrifice of an animal, often a payment of money or some other restitution had to be made to the those who had been wronged.

(See Leviticus 6:1-7.)

He will see his offspring. Those who believe, as Scripture says, "You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus," Galatians 3:26.

See also John 12:23,24.

He will prolong his days. He will live longer, though he was killed as the guilt offering.

Keys to Applying

The central idea in this verse is the will of the LORD. It was the Father's pleasure to cause the Son to suffer for our salvation—the kind of pleasure that comes from doing something great to help someone you love. The Son would become a guilt offering, taking away and making restitution for wrong by his suffering and death. One interesting thing is that God made special mention about unintentional sins being covered by these guilt offerings. When the Son offered himself as a guilt offering, three great things would happen—First, he would see his offspring. Many would be given a spiritual "birth" into a new life as children of God because of his suffering and death. Baptism, a spiritual birth, connects us to Christ's suffering and death. The Second great thing is that the Son would not stay dead. "He will prolong his days." The blessings will continue after his death, and there will be those who believe in him, because he will

The will of the LORD will prosper. The will of the LORD was to make him suffer, but only so that we might believe and be saved. As Paul wrote said, “God our Savior wants all men to be saved, and to come to a knowledge of the truth,” 1 Timothy 2:4.

live on to make it so. And that brings us to the third great thing, “The will of the LORD will prosper.” God’s will is first and last—it was his will that Christ would suffer so that we might be saved, and it is God’s will that we would believe it and be saved. Because the Son lives, the Father’s will is done. People come to faith and are saved.

Questions

1. What seems terrible about God’s will here?
2. How does the idea of Christ as a guilt offering help you understand how hopeless you would be without his terrible suffering and death?
3. After considering our hopelessness and the result of Christ’s suffering and death, how do we see God’s will now?

It is easy to bemoan the horrible things that horrible people did to Christ, but we forget that it was God’s will to punish Christ. If even unintentional sins are punishable by death, then we understand how the only way for us to be saved was for someone else to die for us.

Because we are Lutherans...

Martin Luther’s Explanation to the Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has *redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, delivered me and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil*, not with silver and gold but with his holy and precious blood and *with his innocent sufferings and death*, in order that I may be his, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as he is risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Bible Story

Uzzah touches the Ark

2 Samuel 6:1-7

1. Recall that no one was allowed to touch the Ark of the Covenant. Even when the priests carried it, they were supposed to carry it on poles so that they would not have to touch it.
2. Note that Uzzah meant well—he didn't want the Ark to fall.
3. Note also that Uzzah may well have forgotten God's command not to touch the Ark.
4. Finally, notice that God doesn't take ignorance as an excuse. Even ignorant sin is punishable by death and hell.
5. Remember that Christ died as the sacrifice for *unintentional sins* also.

In Liturgy and Song

538:1

The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is his new creation By water and the Word.
From heav'n he came and sought her To be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her, And for her life he died.

Where do you see God's pleasure, God's pain, and the "offspring" of believers in this hymn verse?

Prayer

Let me understand the teaching of your precepts;
then I will meditate on your wonders.
My soul is weary with sorrow;
strengthen me according to your word.
Keep me from deceitful ways;
be gracious to me through your law.
Amen.

Psalm 119:27-29

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The Text

Isaiah 53:11

After the **suffering** of his soul,
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;
by his **knowledge** my righteous
servant will **justify** many,
and he will **bear their iniquities**.

Keys to Understanding

Suffering of his soul The anguish that Jesus felt during the days leading up to his death, including not only the physical pain of the beatings and the cross, but also the spiritual pain of being abandoned by friends and forsaken by God.

He will see... and be satisfied Translators disagree on how this verse should be read, but the point is that Jesus will live after he suffers.

Knowledge Again, translators disagree on this part of the verse. Some say “knowledge,” some say “sweat,” but either way the point is that because of his suffering he will be able to justify.

Justify The servant will give a “not guilty” verdict to many. Though we have sinned, we will not be punished.

Bear their iniquities. John the Baptist said about Jesus, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” The idea is that Jesus would take our sins upon himself, along with their guilt and the punishment that is

Keys to Applying

The main ideas of this verse are that Christ’s suffering was to justify us, and to bear our iniquities. As we saw in verse 10, though Christ’s suffering would be terrible to behold, it would accomplish God’s great purpose. Here God explains a little more about what his purpose is. Because Christ has borne our sins upon himself and suffered God’s just punishment, we are pronounced not guilty. Now, as great as it is that Christ would take the place of another under God’s punishment, it is that much greater to find that he did it for the entire world. As John said, Christ is the Lamb of God, “who takes away the sin of the world.” Isaiah

due, and carry it away so that it would never be held against us again. As John explained, this “sin-bearing,” along with the justification, is for the whole world. | puts it that Christ would “justify many.”

Because we are Lutherans... From Martin Luther’s Large Catechism

When we were created by God the Father, and had received from him all kinds of good things, the devil came and led us into disobedience, sin, death, and all evil. We lay under God’s wrath and displeasure, doomed to eternal damnation, as we had deserved.

There was no counsel, no help, no comfort for us until this only and eternal Son of God, in his unfathomable goodness, had mercy on our misery and wretchedness and came from heaven to help us.¹

Questions

1. How do people try to justify themselves for doing wrong?
2. These words from Isaiah show that God decided that Christ would have to die so that we could be justified. How does that show you that your sins—even the unintentional ones—are so serious that they are beyond excuse?
3. How do these words show you the greatness of God’s love for you?
4. How do these words show you the greatness of God’s forgiveness for you?

Bible Story

The Scapegoat

Leviticus 16:20-22

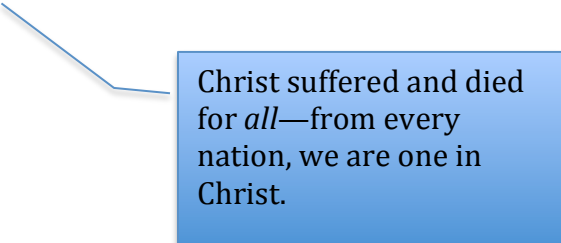
1. Explain that God wanted the Israelites to do this in order to learn how Christ would take their sins away.
2. Explain that in God’s sight, the goat actually carried their sins, because this is what Christ would do for us.
3. Why was the goat sent off into the desert? Explain that it was to make sure those sins would never be held against the people again.

¹ *The Book of Concord the confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*. 1959 (T. G. Tappert, Ed.) (414). Philadelphia: Mühlenberg Press.

In Liturgy and Song

Hymn 538:2

2 Elect from ev'ry nation, Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, With ev'ry grace endued.



Christ suffered and died for *all*—from every nation, we are one in Christ.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, lead us to truly understand the depth of our sinfulness, that we may understand what great efforts you have made to save us, and trust in your great love that led you to suffer and die for us. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

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The Text

Isaiah 53:12

Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,
because he poured out his life unto death,
and was numbered with the transgressors.
For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

Keys to Understanding

Give him a portion among the great... The translation is a bit misleading here. In the Hebrew it is clear that the spoils of war, which are due Christ for his victory over death, are being shared with the multitudes for which he died. The words in question can be translated either "great" and "strong," or "many" and "multitude." It fits the flow of thought better to go with "many" and "multitude."
Divide the spoils... When an army conquers the enemy's city, they take the treasures of that city as the "spoils of war." They will often give the greatest share to the king, the next greatest to the generals, the next greatest to the bravest

Keys to Applying

Notice that there is no reason why Christ would take our side under God's punishment. We are guilty. We are called transgressors and sinners, yet he does take our side. What does it mean to you that Jesus has taken your side? It means everything. For every sin that you commit, he has taken your side and suffered the punishment for that sin. He has suffered the punishment of death and being forsaken by God for all of us, "for the many," the punishment that all humanity deserves for the lump sum of a lifetime of sinfulness. But then also, because he has taken our side in suffering death, his victory over death is shared with us too. He continues

<p>soldiers, and so on.</p> <p>Numbered with the transgressors...Christ chose to be considered as a transgressor, or a sinner, in his death.</p> <p>Bore the sin of many...it wasn't his own sins, but the sins of the multitude of humanity</p> <p>Made intercession...because he carried our sins and suffered our punishment, he has also pleaded for us with his Father in heaven so that we who believe in him would not be punished.</p>	<p>to take our side today, as he speaks to the Father for us to insure that these "spoils of war," our forgiveness and eternal life with him, are actually given to us. It isn't that God needs to be reminded to keep his promises. Rather, this is for our benefit, so that we will have no need to fear though we may feel in our hearts that God justly could punish, and fear that his wrath against our sins will be greater his mercy. We are reassured, because Christ reminds the Father of his death for us.</p>
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Questions

1. In your everyday relationships with family, friends, and loved ones, do you ever admit to being a sinner? Ex. "That was wrong of me to do that, I have sinned against God and you. I am deeply sorry and have no excuse to offer."
2. Do you think of yourself as a sinner in those real world terms, a sinner who deserves nothing but punishment?
3. When you commit a sin against somebody (harsh words, unkind actions), why is it so hard to call a sin a sin, and admit to being a sinner? Why is it so much easier to offer excuses and call it a mistake? Ex. "I messed up."
4. What does it mean to you that Christ took your side under God's wrath for sins so common that you are afraid to admit that they are sins?
5. What does it mean to you that Christ took your side for sins that are so horrible that you can't escape calling them sins?

Because we are Lutherans...

Martin Luther's explanation of the Fifth Petition of the Lord's Prayer, "*Forgive us our trespasses.*"

We pray in this petition that our Heavenly Father may not look upon our sins, and on their account deny our prayers, for we neither merit nor deserve those things for which we pray. Although we sin daily and deserve nothing but punishment, we nevertheless pray that God may grant us all things by his grace. And assuredly we on our part will heartily forgive and cheerfully do good to those who may sin against us.

In the Scripture reading today, we learned that Jesus also prays for us (intercedes for us), so that we know that God will truly forgive.

Bible Story

Moses Intercedes for the Israelites

Numbers 14:1-20

1. Explain how the problem was really that the Israelites were doubting God's power and his intent to help them.
2. Point out that our doubts anger God.
3. In verse 18, Moses reminds God about his promise of mercy, and God agrees to forgive the Israelites. Explain that Jesus speaks to God for us, so that God will forgive us.

In Liturgy and Song

201:2 A Mighty Fortress

With might of ours can naught be done; Soon were our loss effected.
But for us fights the valiant one Whom God himself elected.
You ask, "Who is this?" Jesus Christ it is,
The almighty Lord. And there's no other God;
He holds the field forever.

Christ is on our side,
to defend us against
the devil, but also
against God's wrath!

Prayer

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.
Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.

Psalm 51:1-2