



WEEKLY STUDY

Week 2

It would be so much easier to skip to the end of the story about Jesus' life on earth. Who intentionally revisits the story of suffering and struggle? As followers of Jesus, we do. We have to share in the whole story of Jesus. We have to go through the suffering to get to victory, death before resurrection. This week we will see how Jesus' trial and suffering were anticipated hundreds of years earlier through the writings of the prophet Isaiah. Pay attention to how the larger story was not coincidence, but necessary for the hope we now have in Jesus.

Peace of Christ,
Dr. Mark Youngman
Pastor of Discipleship

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt. Receive this blessing each day as you move into your day as a follower of Jesus.

As you sit with Jesus this week, may you hear him say to your heart, "You are mine. I love you." And may that truth sustain you through whatever trials come your way. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: JOHN 19.1-7

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.² The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe³ and went up to him again and again, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And they slapped him in the face.

⁴*Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him." When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"*

⁶ As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!”

But Pilate answered, “You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.”

⁷ The Jewish leaders insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.”

- As the soldiers mocked Jesus by placing on him a royal robe and a crown of thorns, surely the words from Palm Sunday (John 12. 12-19) were still ringing in someone’s ears. “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!” In their minds (and maybe in ours) a true king of Israel would fight for his rightful spot on the throne. Even in their mocking, the true identity of Jesus was shining through. A different kind of king—a king who would lay down his life for sinners. But the truth was too much for the rulers of that age who could not receive him. Have you experienced resistance to your belief that Jesus is King? Where does that resistance come from? Is it external or internal?
- *Jesus you are my King and the Lord of my life. When I picture you with a robe and crown of thorns I do not see humiliation, I see Love. Thank you Jesus. Amen.*

TUESDAY: ISAIAH 53.1-3

Who has believed our report?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

² *For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot,*

And like a root out of dry ground;

He has no stately form or majesty

That we would look at Him,

Nor an appearance that we would take pleasure in Him.

³ *He was despised and abandoned by men,*

A man of great pain and familiar with sickness;

And like one from whom people hide their faces,

He was despised, and we had no regard for Him.

- The prophet Isaiah recorded these words hundreds of years before Jesus walked the earth. Isaiah himself didn’t know the details of how Jesus would appear, but he knew that a messiah was coming. A suffering Servant who would bring redemption and reconciliation between God and God’s people. The prophecy points to him as one that the world would not recognize nor want to even look at. The world despised the Servant sent from God. As you reflect again on the image of Jesus, flogged, robed, with a crown of thorns pressed into his flesh, spit upon and slapped, you might begin to grasp how isolated and alone he would have felt. The disciples are nowhere to be found. Jesus was well acquainted with our sickness and pain. How does this truth impact the way you experience your own suffering or isolation?
- *God, You have spoken through your prophet to remind us of the long arc of Your redemption story. You didn’t just send a warrior-hero, you sent a suffering Servant. Forgive me for the times I have hidden my face from Him. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: JOHN 19.8-12

When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid,⁹ and he went back inside the palace. “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer.¹⁰ “Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?”

¹¹ Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”

¹² From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.”

- The truth of who Jesus is can complicate the power structures of this world. Although he walked around on this earth and suffered real pain, his mind was on things above (Colossians 3.1-4). He had an acceptance of Pilate’s earthly position and power because he trusted in God the Father. In verse 11, Jesus revealed to Pilate that he was really just a supporting character in the story and seems to offer him grace. It led Pilate to try to set him free. Do you ever find yourself being more focused on the rulers of this world than on God?
- *King Jesus, come and reign over my life today. Give me a mind to see the things above. Amen.*

THURSDAY: ISAIAH 53.7-8

*He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.*

⁸ *By oppression and judgment he was taken away.*

*Yet who of his generation protested?
For he was cut off from the land of the living;
for the transgression of my people he was punished.*

- Once again Isaiah’s words give shape to our understanding of Jesus’ experience centuries later. A suffering Servant who is led to slaughter while not opening his mouth. The moments in the gospel accounts where Jesus refused to speak may be confusing, but he was not mounting a self-defense, he was preparing a sacrifice. The prophet asked, “*Yet who of his generation protested?*” Ouch. There are times today when our Savior seems to be ridiculed and attempts made to put him away. Our protest is following after him. What does a life of following after Jesus look like, and how can it impact the world around you?
- *God, by sending Your Son you have shown me the way of love. Give me strength to follow in that way today. Amen.*

FRIDAY: JOHN 19.13-16

When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge’s seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha).¹⁴ It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon. “Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews.

¹⁵ But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!”

“Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked.

“We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered.

¹⁶ Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus.

- Pilate had exhausted all arguments for Jesus’ release and ultimately proved himself to be powerless in the face of the chief priests. The rulers and the crowd must have wanted this situation resolved before the Passover observance got into full swing. They didn’t want this matter hanging over their heads and ruining a holy day. Their growing intensity caused Pilate to throw up his hands and turn Jesus over. Are there events on your calendar that cause you to brush Jesus aside?
- *Jesus, forgive me for the times I have been in the crowd ready to move on from your will and your way. Amen.*

SATURDAY: ISAIAH 53.4-6

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.

- As we read through the difficult account of Jesus' suffering and death, we can look under the surface and see that it is our pain that he suffered. In that, we can begin to move from guilt to grace. He was pierced and crushed and punished for us. And by his wounds we are healed. Have you accepted this grace offered through the suffering Servant Jesus?
- *Jesus, as you have already taken my pain and sin to the cross, I give you my life. I am yours. Amen.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

In this week’s message, Pastor Jacob shared the story of his baptism and confirmation. When Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan River, he heard the voice of his Father in Heaven say, *“This is my son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”* Matthew 3.17.

- If you have been baptized, share about that. What did it mean to you? What did it mean to your family? Your church?
- “This is my child, whom I love; in whom I am well pleased.” Have you considered that God has said a similar thing about you in your baptism? How do those words impact your seasons of suffering?
- Where did you encounter God in the readings this week?
- If you are working through this guide with a Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, and are in the area, consider attending the Baptism Service, this Thursday (October 27th) at 6:30pm.