

**Isaiah 53:10-12**

Crushing Jesus

Jonathan Romig gave this sermon at Immanuel Church on 5/3/2015. Immanuel Church is the parent church of Cornerstone Congregational Church.

Immanuel: <http://www.immanuelchurch.com/>

Cornerstone: <http://www.cornerstonewestford.com/>

\*See next page for preaching outline.

Introduction:

1. I'm going to read some words and I want you to guess who each passage is talking about.

*Tell me, Muse, of the man of many devices, who wandered far and wide after he had sacked Troy's sacred city, and saw the towns of many men and knew their mind.*

2. Homer created *The Odyssey* about the Greek hero Odysseus.
3. It was first published around 700 B.C. (oldest fragments date 3rd century BC).
4. The actual events they talked about—the Trojan War, probably took place around 1200-1100 BC.

*Two households, both alike in dignity  
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene  
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny  
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.  
From forth the fatal loins of these two foes  
A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life*

5. William Shakespeare wrote the tragedy *Romeo and Juliet* around 1591.
6. His works were collected and published after his lifetime in 1623.

<sup>13</sup> *See, my servant will act wisely;  
he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.*

<sup>14</sup> *Just as there were many who were appalled at him—  
his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being  
and his form marred beyond human likeness— (Isaiah 52:13-14)*

<sup>3</sup> *He was despised and rejected by mankind,  
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.  
Like one from whom people hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.*

<sup>5</sup> *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.*

<sup>9</sup> *He was assigned a grave with the wicked,  
and with the rich in his death,  
though he had done no violence,  
nor was any deceit in his mouth. (Isaiah 53:3, 5, 9)*

7. This is about Jesus—but where do we read this story in the Bible? (NT? OT?)
8. We have no sermon title or passage because I wanted you to hear these words are about Jesus.
9. Isaiah wrote these passages about Jesus 700 years prior to Jesus' life (chap 52-53).
10. The best complete manuscripts come from the Dead Sea Scrolls (slide on screen).
11. The Great Isaiah Scroll actually predates the lifetime of Jesus at 125 BC.

(Why does the story of Isaiah matter for us today?)

- The Odyssey and Romeo and Juliet still speak to our hearts today.
- Isaiah helps us appreciate the love of God as we understand the justice of God. \*Read Isaiah 53:10-12

## I. God crushed Jesus (v. 10).

### A. Jesus was crushed by God. (v. 10)

1. Isaiah 52:13-53:12 is about the Suffering Servant, who we recognize as Christ.
2. The NIV says “Yet it was the Lord’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer.”
3. My translation is “And it was Yahweh’s delight to crush him and make him sick.”
4. The text doesn’t say God just let Jesus’ suffering happen, but God caused it and it pleased him.
5. The “cause him to suffer” is a hiphil verb stem that is causative and active.
6. God made Jesus suffer but he did it without sinning.

*Acts 2:23 (ESV) “— this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.”*

### B. Maybe some of you feel bad for Jesus as if he was forced by God. (abusive?)

1. Couldn’t God have just forgiven our sins and not crushed Jesus?
2. We underestimate God’s holiness and our own wickedness.
3. We measure our sin by our perception of our actions instead of God’s greatness.
4. When we sin against an infinite God, we deserve an infinite punishment.
5. John Stott writes, “...God [satisfied] himself by substituting himself for us.”
6. Jesus willingly sacrificed himself as our high priest and sacrifice.
7. The cross is the greatest act of mercy and self sacrifice ever seen.

(How did God crush Jesus? He made him suffer the crucifixion.)

### B. This sermon series is loosely based on John Piper’s book, *Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ*

1. Piper quotes Eusebius, who in A.D. 300 described a Roman scourging of Christians (WARNING)
2. “At one time they were torn by scourges down to deep-seated veins and arteries, so that the hidden contents of the recesses of their bodies, their entrails and organs, were exposed to sight.”
3. He was so weak and broken and bloody he couldn’t carry his own cross.
4. Then they drove nails through his wrists and his feet, striking nerves.
5. Someone recently said Jesus went through enough pain to die a thousand deaths.
6. It would have been more compassionate for Jesus to be burned at the stake.

(God crushed Jesus—but why did God make Jesus go through this?)

## II. God crushed Jesus to heal us (v. 11).

### A. God crushed Jesus because he loves us. (v. 11a)

1. V. 11 tells us “he will see the light of life and be satisfied.”
2. This means two things: 1) Jesus will rise from this crushing (life); and 2) Jesus died willingly because he loves you (satisfaction).

3. Hebrews 12:2b says “For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (NIV)
  4. All who trust in Christ are the joy of Christ.
- B. Have you ever given up something that was precious to you to gain something just as precious?
1. I got lunch with a friend this week and we talked about weddings.
  2. Think about the image of a father walking his daughter down the aisle.
  3. He gives up his daughter to gain a son.
  4. In the case of my father-in-law, he didn't get a very good deal.
  5. But that's the celebration of a wedding, giving away to gain a new family.
  6. Our Father in heaven gave up his precious son so that he could gain beloved sons and daughters.
- C. God crushed Jesus to heal us. (v. 11b)
1. Jesus willingly went to the cross—“by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many...”
  2. The Hebrew word for "make righteous" also means "acquit, vindicate, and innocence.”
  3. It is also a hiphil so when God caused Jesus' suffering (v.10) he caused our righteousness (v.11).
  4. In other words, Jesus gave his innocence to us.
  5. Jesus justifies our injustice by suffering God’s justice for us.
- D. Jesus healed us by bearing our sins.
1. V. 11 tells us “he will bear their iniquities.”
  2. The Hebrew word for “bear” is “sibol” and means “to carry or transport” like pregnancy.
  3. It is an imperfect tense which expresses incomplete action (he wasn't finished till the cross).
  4. But in v. 12 we read a new Hebrew word "nasa", which means “to lift up or take away.”
  5. Just remember NASA is the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
  6. "...he will bear their iniquities" changes to "he bore the sins of many...”
  7. The incomplete action “bear” changes to the completed action “bore.”
  8. Not only has Jesus carried our sins, he’s removed the burden of sin far away.
  9. If you are a believer in Jesus, he has lifted your sins off your shoulders.
  10. You cheated on that test? Not in God’s eyes. On your marriage? Not in God’s eyes.

(Why ultimately did God crush Jesus. Was it just out of love for us? No.)

### III. God crushed Jesus to heal us and glorify Him (v. 12).

- A. God crushed Jesus to glorify Jesus.
1. Philippians 2:9 says, "Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name," (NIV)
  2. Through his sacrifice on the cross, Jesus receives the glory and praise of the Father.
  3. V. 12 tells us that God gave Jesus “a portion among the great” and “spoils with the strong.”
  4. This doesn't mean Jesus is equal with men, but I think it means he shares his inheritance with us.
  5. The weak are made strong and broken sinners are made righteous saints.
  6. Notice how God glorifies Jesus, by numbering him with transgressors (contrast Olympics).
  7. God didn't send Jesus into the world to hangout with good people, but bad people.
  8. Jesus was an innocent man who died a criminal's death between two thieves.

- B. Application #1 - Christians should care for innocent people
1. Whenever I hear about someone in jail being found innocent, I find it hard to believe.
  2. The first time I heard about the Innocence Project I was skeptical.
  3. I thought it was a bunch of liberals trying to set criminals free.
  4. But they're using DNA testing to prove these people are indeed innocent.
  5. A pastor reminded me that believers should be the first to try and free the innocent.
- C. Application #2 - Christians should care for broken people.
1. God crushed Jesus to heal broken people, not good people.
  2. The news tells us that both Baltimore and Ferguson are broken.
  3. Maybe you think it's broken because of police injustice or rebellious demonstrators.
  4. It's broken because of sin—and you and I are just as broken without Christ.
  5. God crushed Jesus to heal us and glorify Him.

Conclusion:

1. I want to close by reading a story some of you may have heard before.
2. There are many different versions online, one of which I'm going to read, but the first modern printing comes from a baptist magazine back in the 1967.

*There was once a bridge that spanned a large river. During most of the day the bridge sat with its length running up and down the river paralleled with the banks, allowing ships to pass through freely on both sides of the bridge. But at certain times each day, a train would come along and the bridge would be turned sideways across the river, allowing the train to cross it.*

*A switchman sat in a shack on one side of the river where he operated the controls to turn the bridge and lock it into place as the train crossed.*

*One evening as the switchman was waiting for the last train of the day to come, he looked off into the distance through the dimming twilight and caught sight of the train lights. He stepped onto the control and waited until the train was within a prescribed distance. Then he was to turn the bridge. He turned the bridge into position, but, to his horror, he found the locking control did not work. If the bridge was not securely in position, it would cause the train to jump the track and go crashing into the river. This would be a passenger train with many people aboard.*

*He left the bridge turned across the river and hurried across the bridge to the other side of the river, where there was a lever switch he could hold to operate the lock manually.*

*He would have to hold the lever back firmly as the train crossed. He could hear the rumble of the train now, and he took hold of the lever and leaned backward to apply his weight to it, locking the bridge. He kept applying the pressure to keep the mechanism locked. Many lives depended on this man's strength.*

*Then, coming across the bridge from the direction of his control shack, he heard a sound that made his blood run cold.*

*"Daddy, where are you?" His four-year-old son was crossing the bridge to look for him. His first impulse was to cry out to the child, "Run! Run!" But the train was too close; the tiny legs would never make it across the bridge in time..*

*The man almost left his lever to snatch up his son and carry him to safety. But he realized that he could not get back to the lever in time if he saved his son.*

*Either many people on the train or his own son - must die.*

*He took but a moment to make his decision. The train sped safely and swiftly on its way, and no one aboard was even aware of the tiny broken body thrown mercilessly into the river by the on rushing train. Nor were they aware of the pitiful figure of the sobbing man, still clinging to the locking lever long after the train had passed. They did not see him walking home more slowly than he had ever walked; to tell his wife how their son had brutally died.*

*Now, if you comprehend the emotions that went through this man's heart, you can begin to understand the feelings of Our Father in Heaven when He sacrificed His Son to bridge the gap between us and eternal life.*

*Can there be any wonder that He caused the earth to tremble and the skies to darken when His Son died? How does He feel when we speed along through life without giving a thought to what was done for us through Jesus Christ?<sup>1</sup>*

3. This story gives us a picture of the sacrifice God the Father had to make to crush Jesus.
4. But there are pieces it's missing—the people on the train were God's enemies.
5. The Son wasn't forced to die, he died willingly in our place.
6. And finally, the Son rose again from the grave in victory.
7. And God uses this victory to save us and glorify Jesus.
8. God crushed Jesus to heal us and glorify Him.

*The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26 ESV)*

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.snopes.com/glurge/drawbridge.asp> (accessed 5.2.2015)