



A God Beaten

Wednesday, March 20 at 11 & 7

Third Wednesday of Lent – 2019

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Today we focus on Jesus being *a God beaten!* Doesn't that sound so wrong – *GOD beaten?* And it is *so much worse because* ♣He loves us, ♣He came for our benefit, ♣He did nothing wrong, and ♣the beating He took *is what WE deserved!*

In today's sermon, we will touch on some key parts of [Isaiah chapters 52 and 53](#), and focus on a section in [John chapter 18](#) – when Jesus was on trial before Annas.

1. **Some Key Prophecies About Jesus' Suffering:** The book of Isaiah contains four Servant Songs, *which point ahead to Jesus*. We now touch on some key aspects of the fourth Servant Song – *on the topic of Jesus being a God beaten!*
 - a. **52:14 ...his appearance was so marred [disfigured], beyond human semblance [appearance], and his form beyond that of the children of mankind...** // Try to picture Jesus, *the Son of God*, being a younger handsome Jewish man... and then being so severely beaten that *His body was disfigured to the point where He no longer resembled a human being!* Doesn't it hurt to try to picture Jesus in that way? And then knowing ♣that it happened, ♣that He permitted it, and ♣that it was part of God's loving plan to remove our sins!
 - b. **3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we**

esteemed him not. // When unbelievers saw Jesus, *even though He loved them*, they hated Him and rejected Him, *which made His heart hurt with sorrow!* When people saw Jesus, *they did not look upon Him with pity*, but, instead, *they shunned Him...* and even those who trusted in Him did not stand with Him, *but ran away!*

- c. **⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.** // When people see someone greatly suffering, *it is natural for them to think*, “I wonder what he did to deserve that!” People thought the same of Jesus... *look at how He is suffering – how God is punishing Him...* assuming that HE had done something wrong!
- d. **⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.** // It was *not Jesus* who had done wrong *but us*; however, *because of His great love and perfect obedience*, He willingly became our whipping boy – *being pierced and crushed IN OUR PLACE* in order to provide us with the precious gifts of ✦peace with God and ✦spiritual restoration!
- e. **⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned-- every one-- to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.** // We are like sheep – *foolish, helpless sheep...* as we wander from God’s will to follow the temptations of ✦the devil, ✦the world, and ✦the sinful nature within us. However, the LORD – *God the Father*, took every wrong and placed them on His ✦only and ✦sinless Son – *all for our eternal benefit!*

f. ¹⁰ **Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him...** // So with our *countless evils* bearing down a *tremendous weight* on Jesus, it was *at that time* that God the Father crushed His Son with His wrath – *thus with the eternal punishment that we deserve!* Those words, which were *God-breathed and written down by Isaiah about 700 years before the time of Jesus*, clearly tell us what He would eventually do to save us from our sins!

2. **Jesus on Trial Before Annas:**

- a. Jesus questioned: ¹⁹ **The high priest [Annas] then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.** ²⁰ **Jesus answered him, “I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹ Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said.”** // From a logical point of view, most people would conclude that Jesus must have done something wrong... *or He wouldn't have been arrested!* Therefore, Jesus – *by speaking as He did* – was simply asking the high priest to **state the charge against Him and bring forth the witnesses to support that charge.**
- b. Jesus struck: ²² **When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?”** // We don't know the tone of Jesus' voice, *but we know He is the sinless Son of God*; therefore, we can rightly conclude *that He was not trying to provoke the high priest to anger.* Nevertheless, *as a God beaten, Jesus was struck, as recorded here, and MUCH MORE when He was flogged (John 19:1)!* We deserved it, *He took it!*

- c. Jesus' response: ²³ **Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?"** // When we look into God's Word, *it is obvious that we are rotten sinners who deserve to be struck!* It is also obvious that Jesus was innocent, yet *He was beaten †in our place, †as our perfect substitute, †to take away our sins!*
3. **Jesus Was Put on Trial Five Times**: ²⁴ **Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.** // For about 12 hours – *from later Thursday (our time) to Friday morning* – Jesus endured many trials and much mistreatment for us!
- a. Caiaphas: After Jesus was questioned by Caiaphas, He was taken to Pilate – the Roman Governor, *since the Jews were not permitted by Rome to put anyone to death* ([John 18:31](#)).
- b. Pilate: He questioned Jesus, *but really did not want to get involved*, so, when a possibility arose, he sent Jesus to Herod ([Luke 23:1-7](#)).
- c. Herod: He questioned Jesus, *yet Jesus kept silent*; finally Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate ([Luke 23:8-11](#)).
- d. Pilate: Even though He washed his hands in front of the crowd, *trying to express that he was innocent of Jesus' blood* ([Matt. 27:24](#)), Pilate was the one who finally condemned Jesus to be crucified ([John 19:14-17](#)).

Let Us Pray: Dear Lord Jesus, *our God in human flesh*, thank You for *taking our beating and winning our forgiveness!*

Some of the content of this sermon is from the series, Behold the Man (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2018).

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