



## CELL GUIDE

**TOPIC** The Divine Exchange (Isaiah 53)

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**THEME** Jesus Christ and Him Crucified

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

Palm Sunday is the start of the Holy Week, and begins with Jesus entering Jerusalem to joyous shouts of Hosanna. Yet for all the rejoicing portrayed in Palm Sunday, the story in the Old Testament that best tells of Christ, is one of suffering.

In Isaiah 53, the song of the suffering Servant, the prophet Isaiah prophesied about the coming of a Messiah 700 years before Christ was born. During the time of King Hezekiah, Isaiah warned Israel of their great sin & God's punishment. But Isaiah also said God will console the people of Israel through a suffering Servant who will bear their griefs. Israel's story is in fact, also the human story. Jesus came to bear our griefs and offer us a divine exchange.

## THE DIVINE EXCHANGE

### 1) For our hatred, Christ helps us (Isa 53:4)

Though we despised Him, God's servant bore our griefs and sorrows.

We know that in the Gospels, Jesus was hated in Nazareth (Lk 4), hated by the Pharisees (Mt 12), by the Sanhedrin (Mk 14), and hated even by his own beloved Israel. They rejected him as prophet, as Messiah, and accused him of blasphemy instead. Jesus knew that they rejected him, and He was also a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief (Jn 11, Lk 22).

Jesus was despised and hated, not just in general by men, but also personally by us. In the way we live our lives, when we show ourselves dishonest, unkind and sinful. We despise Jesus and His kingdom whenever we place ourselves above others and above Him. Not necessarily by disobeying Him, but also when we ignore Him. When He doesn't even enter our thoughts. When we esteem Him not.

Application 1: Don't despise God. When we refuse to be ruled or mastered by God, when we chafe at His claim over every area of our lives, we are showing a hatred for God! Is there a sin we refuse to give up, a grudge we refuse to release? Not despising God also means not despising those made in His image.

## 2) For our hurting Him, Christ heals us (Isa 53:5)

Though we tortured Him, God's servant brought our peace and healing.

When the servant of God was chastised for no sin of his own, he brought us healing. This can only happen because of the perfect righteousness and sinlessness of Christ. Tempted as we are, and yet without sin, Jesus was perfectly righteous and yet pierced for our sakes.

Without a substitutionary death for our sins, we are damned. Thank God for the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities.

Application 2: Pray for peace and healing. Pray for those who need peace and healing.

## 3) For our hostility, Christ offers our holiness

Though we sinned against Him, God laid our sins on His servant.

Christ died for our sins. He exchanged places with us so that instead of eternal death, which our sins warrant, we instead get eternal life, which we certainly do not deserve.

Our good works are like filthy rags and they cannot save us. That's why Christ willingly walked into our hostility, to suffer and die that we might live. To take up our sins so that we might take up His righteousness.

Application 3: Repent of trivialising sin in our lives. All our sin was placed on Christ. Do we entertain the spirit of Jezebel (compromise) or smugness etc? Confess our sin. (1 John 1:9)

## CONCLUSION

Palm Sunday was on the tenth day of the month - the day the Lamb was picked for the Passover (Exodus 12). Jesus is the Lamb.

The terms of the divine exchange are still valid today.

- Sorry - For my sins
- Please - Forgive me
- Thank you - For coming into my life and being my Saviour

# QUESTIONS

1. What does the Divine Exchange (Isaiah 53) mean to you personally? How have you experienced His help, healing and holiness?

2. Are there currently any unresolved hatred/ hurts/ hostility which you would like to bring before God? How can the cell to support you in prayer?  
Or share a testimony of how God has turned your hatred/ hurt/ hostility into healing and hope.

3. We are living in uncertain times, do we have family, friends, neighbours or colleagues whom we are able to demonstrate Christ's love to? Share how you would like to go about sharing Christ's love to them prayerfully.