

GOD & THE SERVANT

March 31, 2013

"Happy about Easter"

Isaiah 53:11,12

"Happy Easter!"

What we say is "Happy Easter!" *Happy Easter but Merry Christmas.* Evidently, the details of our mood are significant. To me, as a boy, being happy at Easter WAS always more complicated than being merry at Christmas.

1. If there were presents at all, they were probably clothes.
2. The obvious source of happiness was things made of chocolate. But never unsweetened chocolate or semi-sweetened chocolate. So we were always talking about sugar highs, which generally led to emotional crashes and fighting with my sister.
3. Easter Sunday was so very close to Good Friday, with all of its sadness --- and horrors!

OUR TEXT THIS MORNING IS THE LAST FEW LINES OF THE 4TH AND FINAL "SERVANT SONG" FOUR "SONGS" ABOUT A MYSTERIOUS PERSON CALLED "GOD'S SERVANT." [Found between Isaiah 42-53]

Four passages of Old Testament writings containing detailed explanations of the life and the death of a person mysteriously referred to as "the Servant" --- "God's Servant whom He has chosen" → Very obviously, "**the Servant**" is **Jesus**: as made plain by the details of his life and death in all four "songs." Remarkably, predicted 700 years prior to any of it happening!

Isaiah 53:11,12 **ESV** The portion of the ancient "Servant Songs" particularly relevant to Easter Sunday! Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Three Kinds of Easter Happiness

1. Happiness about Springtime.

"HAPPY EASTER!" *Easter?*

Mark Driscoll on the origins of "Easter"

It's most likely that the origins of Easter stem from early Anglo-Saxon inhabitants of the British Isles during the first millennium who celebrated a spring festival in the month of April in honor of their goddess Eostre, who represented fertility (And so, rabbits) and the arrival of spring (And so eggs), light, and the rising dawn. When Christian missionaries first arrived in Britain from the Roman Empire during this time (600 A.D. or so.), they incorporated some of the pre-existing traditional festivities into the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, which took place in the same season ... Over the centuries, the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection overtook "Eostre" in popularity, although the name stuck as "Easter."

Seasonal happiness. Spring is a season!

Temporary happiness. Spring is a brief part of the year.

Superficial happiness. We all know: if life is hard and our problems are big, "Spring" is at best a small consolation.

2. Happiness about Jesus:

- a) About his resurrection

Isaiah 53:11,12 **ESV**

Out of the anguish of his soul **he shall see** and be satisfied... Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong

Romans 1:4 **ESV** His rising from the dead is a declaration of his identity: the powerful Son of God!

... declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord

1 Corinthians 15:14 **ESV**

And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain

Everything that Jesus offers us is dependent on the reality of his resurrection from the dead!

b) About our “justification”

Isaiah 53:11,12 ESV

... by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. ... he poured out his soul to death ... he bore the sin of many...

DEFINITION:

The righteousness of the Righteous One transferred [“imputed”] to the account of “many” --- and the “iniquities” of “the many” transferred [“imputed”] to the Servant’s account.

Romans 4:25 ESV

... Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

But when we say “our justification” we are thinking of the justification of all those who have believed in Jesus / put their faith in Jesus / entrusted themselves to Jesus.

Easter Sunday is a good day to see that “many” have. The resurrection of Jesus celebrated all over the world by hundreds of millions of people.

Experiencing this “justification” is just about the most wonderful thing that can happen to anyone. ***But there’s more!***

c) About his “intercession”

Isaiah 53:11,12 ESV

... he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Hebrews 7:25 ESV

... he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

“Justification” brings us into a new relationship with God: but Christ, alive from the dead, sits at the right hand of God and intercedes for us / vouches for us / speaks to God for us.

3. The happiness of Jesus

Isaiah 53:11,12 ESV

Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied... The “anguish of his soul”?

Isaiah 53:3,4 ESV

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. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

Satisfied? Even taking into account the suffering.

Hebrews 12:2 ESV

... Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Isaiah 53:11,12 ESV The portion of the ancient “Servant Songs” particularly relevant to Easter Sunday!

... Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong...