

EASTER EYES

Easter Sunday: *all about Jesus*. Risen from the dead.

We begin in the early days of his work as the Christ: the time when he returned to the synagogue in his hometown.

Luke 4 ... he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Luke 4:18-19 (Isaiah 61:1,2)

And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Luke 4:20,21

What WE KNOW is that he knew WHO HE WAS. Exactly.

What WE DON'T KNOW is HOW HE CAME TO KNOW IT.

So we must *speculate!* → He read and studied and learned the Bible. e.g. Isaiah 61
And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him...
And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Luke 2:39,40,51,52

So let us *speculate!* → At some point, in some place and at some time, Jesus read and studied and learned **Isaiah 61**

So today --- on this Easter morning --- let us together try to imagine **WHAT JESUS COULD SEE IN ISAIAH 53**

1. He could see the shame that was set before him.

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. **Isaiah 53:3**

"despised" **DEFINITION:** to look down on with contempt or aversion; to regard as negligible, worthless.

And being aware of who he was: the image of the invisible God and the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of God's nature, he saw that looking down on him was looking down on God. Despising him was despising. And he would hate that thought with all his heart, for he loved righteousness and he hated lawlessness. But that is not all that he saw in the Scriptures (in **Isaiah 53**) as he studied them.

2. He could see the design of God in the shame.

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 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. 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. **Isaiah 53:4-6**

Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief... **Isaiah 53:10**

And so, we speculate, long before he was called to the shame and the pain and the death that was the will of God for him, he saw God's design, God's reason for him to be so shamed, to be an object of such disdain, such disgrace!

And we have arrived at verse 10, there is something else he could see!

3. He could see what he **WOULD** one day see. What he would experience upon completion of his mission.

Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied **Isaiah 53:10,11**

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+ when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring → ? → his people. All who believe in him!
+ he shall prolong his days → ? → HE WILL LIVE FOREVER, even though he has died as "an offering for guilt"
+ the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand → ? → it's all going to work!

What he learned is that one day he would see all who would one day believe in him: all who would one day come to see what shame and pain he endured --- and believe in him, and love him. For example the people that Peter wrote to: **Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1 Peter 1:8,9**

And the people here in London who also have not seen him, but love him and believe in him and rejoice in him --- with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory... **INCLUDING MANY OF US HERE THIS MORNING.**

So we need to see that the “sight” of all these joyful believers was A GREAT JOY TO JESUS.
A very motivating joy! A JOY TO DIE FOR!

AND before he experienced the shame and the pain of the cross: and the death of the cross, he knew that it would be!

Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied Isaiah 53:11

And what he “saw” so plainly in the Scriptures, he lived to see and died and live again to see with his own eyes!

And so he went to his death, with a confidence based on the Word of God. All of this is set out for us in the New Testament. For example **Hebrews 12:** What Jesus did and the way in which what Jesus did should affect us!
Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to 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. Hebrews 12:1,2

WE CAN SEE IT FOR OURSELVES 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. Hebrews 12:1,2

HE ENDURED THE CROSS Jesus saw the cross long before he was nailed to it: *and he endured it.*

HE ENDURED THE CROSS, DESPISING THE SHAME Jesus saw the shame long before he endured it: *and he despised it.*

And now we see why! “FOR THE JOY THAT WAS SET BEFORE HIM” *For the joy of seeing “his offspring”*

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.” **Matthew 28:1-10**

And I speculate: that our Lord Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, stood there, and watched them running to find the men he referred to as his brothers, and he smiled with joy, to see that these women who he had died for were hurrying away to find these men that he had died for...

And forty days later... **Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:9-11**

... he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. **Ephesians 1:20-23**

NEXT WEEK: **April 15.** A new 10-week series begins “**COSTLY GRACE**”, Part 1 **Matthew 9:35-10:4**