



Guess Who? Who are you- Isaiah
Sermon Discussion Questions – June 25, 2023

Scripture Passages:

Isaiah 55:7- Let the wicked change their ways and banish the very thought of doing wrong. Let them turn to the Lord that he may have mercy on them. Yes, turn to our God, for he will forgive generously.

Isaiah 53:2-11- He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. 3 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. 4 Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. 5 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. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. 9 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. 10 Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand. 11 After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.

2 Corinthians 5:21- God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Romans 6:23- For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 14:6- . . . "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Deuteronomy 30:19- This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live.

Jeremiah 6:16- This is what the Lord says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, 'We will not walk in it.'

Warm Up:

This is the last week of June and we are heading into July. Summer is a fun time of the year where there sun is out longer and it is a big time for vacation. What have you already done this summer? What do you still have planned for the coming months?

Discussion:

1. Pastor Tom begins by summarizing the role of prophetic writings in Scripture through these six words. To pave the way for Jesus. How do the prophetic writings pave the way for Jesus and what significance does Jesus hold in relation to these writings?
2. Pastor Tom shares that the character we are looking at from Scripture this week is Isaiah. He also shows us what Isaiah's name means which is the LORD saves. How does Isaiah's name, "The LORD saves," reflect the essence of his message, and how does his prophetic role intersect with the societal challenges faced by Judah and Israel?

3. While sharing about the context that Isaiah is living in and prophesying to, Pastor Tom shares three commonalities of cultures that lose their moral compass. These three commonalities are:
 - Idolatry—a nation begins to worship created things as opposed to the Creator.
 - Sexual dysfunction—a nation embraces forms that do not lead to life, but instead lead to death.
 - Child Sacrifice—a nation, in order to appease their idolatry, will literally hand their children over to things of death and destruction. A more general description might be, the devaluing of life.Where have you seen the three commonalities (idolatry, sexual dysfunction, and child sacrifice) in various cultures throughout history, including our current society?
4. Read Isaiah 55:7. How does Isaiah's message of repentance or turning back to the Lord apply to the cultural and moral challenges faced by Judah, and how does it serve as a warning of potential consequences for failing to repent?
5. Read Isaiah 53:2-11. Considering the passage in Isaiah 53 that speaks of the servant bearing the sins and offering redemption, how does this concept of sacrificial atonement provide a new understanding of leadership and salvation in contrast to the prevailing cultural expectations of the time? In what ways do you think freedom can be found through Jesus in today's culture?
6. "And the question Isaiah, Moses, Jeremiah, and Jesus all lead us to is this: Which road am I on? There are only two roads. One road is wide and popular but leads to death. The other is narrow and less popular, but it leads to life." -Pastor Tom. In light of the message of Isaiah, Moses, Jeremiah, and Jesus, what does it mean to choose the suffering servant and walk in the narrow and less popular road that leads to life?
7. "We can go through this message and hear it from a 30,000-foot level. We can say, 'Yeah, I am good with Jesus.' And yet, there are small areas of our lives, where we know we are on the wrong road, but we don't care. I become comfortable with my lack of forgiveness or grace toward others. I become comfortable with a small, private behavior or pattern of thinking. I become comfortable hating that group of people because I do so quietly. I become comfortable talking about him or her or them in a destructive way. I become comfortable in my arrogance and pride." - Pastor Tom. What does it mean to be comfortable with certain behaviors, thoughts, or attitudes that contradict the teachings of Jesus, and how might this hinder our transformation into His likeness? How can we actively invite Jesus into those areas and align ourselves with His ways?

Next Steps:

Use these questions to help guide your reflection or discussion.

- Which road am I on?
- What area's in my life do I need to surrender to God?
- How might God want to transform these areas in my life?
- What might I need to repent and seek forgiveness in?