

## “Real Character”

### Isaiah 52:13-53:12

**Context:** Isaiah 51:1-52:12 emphasized the Remnant’s call to wakefulness, emancipation from captivity, and exhortation to holiness in the presence of their Redeemer. That passage flows into today’s study, which describes the Redeemer and His work of redemption. The chapters that follow explain the glory of the Remnant’s redemption and give an invitation to all who desire His redemption. **Life Principle:** No one is so sinful that Christ’s sacrifice has not paid their price or so righteous that they are not in need of His redemption (cf. Isaiah 53:6).

#### 1. Character of His Redemption – Isaiah 52:13ff

Isaiah describes the nature of redemption in terms of (1) its effect on our abhorrence toward God, (2) its shocking revelation, (3) its being proclaimed, (4) its being despised by us, (5) the bearing of the penalty of death by Messiah in our place, (6) a debt payment that satisfies God’s demand for justice, (7) imputing Messiah’s righteousness to us, and (8) imputing our guilt from sin to Him.

#### 2. Character of the Redeemer – Isaiah 53:2ff

Messiah’s character is not discovered by those who desire the majesty of physical beauty and social status as confirmation of His position. Many people avoided Him because of His unattractive physical features and low social standing. The vapid attitudes with which humanity wounds one another are the same attitudes with which humanity wounded Him. Without the whining, violence, and lies that accompany sin, Christ in anguish and perseverance bore the penalty due humanity for their sinful sickness. Out of love, He freely chose to bear God’s just recompense for our sin in order to gain the pleasure of redemption and eternal fellowship with the repentant Remnant.

#### Study questions:

- Isaiah 52:15 foretells the proclamation of the “Good News” spoken of in Isaiah 52:7. As a **Bible study method**, look up your Bible’s cross reference in the New Testament (i.e. Romans 15:18-21; Ephesians 3:5-10). To whom does the New Testament author apply verse 15? Give some examples that demonstrate the fulfillment of this prophecy (i.e. Acts 24:10ff). Give a time and place where the prophecy directly affected you.
- Compare the description of the character of redemption in Isaiah 52:13-53:12 with the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ on our behalf in Matthew 26:54-28:10. Make a list of similarities. Do any of the details of Christ’s sacrifice have anything to you? Why or why not?
- Isaiah 53:9-11 prophesied that the sinless Messiah would be the sin offering on behalf of many so that His righteousness would be imputed to them for their salvation. Our doctrinal statement professes this truth, known theologically as substitutionary atonement, as part of our salvation (see footnotes 7-10 ‘On Salvation’ in our **doctrinal statement** under **what we believe** at [www.gracepointfellowship.org](http://www.gracepointfellowship.org)). If Jesus “paid it all,” what is our part in salvation (see footnotes 9-12 and Romans 10:8ff)?

#### Transformation exercise:

Meditate on Isaiah 52:15 and Romans 10:13-15 each morning. Ask the Lord to bring someone across your path who will ask you about your faith. Are you prepared to share it when they ask? Why or why not?