

GOD DELIGHTS IN CRUSHING THE SON

FOR DISCUSSION

“Once there was a land ruled by a wicked prince. He had come from a foreign country and enslaved all the people of the land and made them miserable with hard labor in his coal mines across the deep canyon. He had built a massive trestle for the trains that carried his slaves across the canyon to the mines each morning, and it was heavily guarded.

“Two men were still free in this kingdom—one old and the other young. They lived on an inaccessible cliff overlooking the trestle. They hated the trestle. At last they resolved together to blow it up and destroy the slave labor of the enemy prince. They planned and they prayed and they reminded themselves of the reality of heaven.

“The night came when the deed would be done. Their hearts were pounding with joy. It was a hard plan. It would be possible to time the trek of the trestle guard so that the explosive could be carried quickly to the vulnerable spot on the trestle. But there would be no time for the carrier of the explosives to return. It was certain that he would be seen and the plan foiled if he tried to return. To make sure the trestle blew up the two men agreed that the young man would detonate it by hand on the trestle. He would blow up with it.

“But they believed in heaven, and they loved the people of the land. And so the honor of this sacrifice made their hearts leap with joy. The hour came. They folded up the map of their strategy, stood from the table and embraced each other. When the young man got to the door, he turned with the explosive strapped to his back, looked at the old man, and said, “I love you, Father.” And the old man took a deep breath—with joy—and said, “I love you too, Son.” (John Piper, *The Pleasures of God*, pp. 164-165)

How does the Father’s love for his Son relate to his love for the enslaved people? Does he love one more than other? How could he love the son and make such a plan?

ENCOUNTER READ GODS WORD SO THAT HE CAN SPEAK TO YOU

Isaiah 53; Romans 3:23-26

EXPLORE HIS WORD ASKING QUESTIONS OF WHAT YOU SAW.

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1)

Isaiah 53:10 –“But the LORD was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief; if He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, and the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand.”

- Who killed Jesus?
- Why did God bruise his Son and bring him to grief? What was his pleasure?
- How much wrath did we deserve?
- What did the Son do for us? (Read all of Isaiah 53)
- Why couldn't God just sweep sin under the rug as if it never happened?
- How could God be pleased in the death of his Son?

2)

Read Romans 3:23-26.

What does redemption mean?

What does propitiation mean?

How did God pass over sins?

Proverbs 17:15 – “He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous, both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD.”

When God passes over sins, His righteousness is called into question. How did the death of Jesus solve this?

3)

God delights to honor his name. And we—even after salvation—continue to bring disgrace on his name through our sin. So why is God so enthusiastic about adopting us as his own?

4)

How was the depth of the Son's suffering also a measure of the Father's glory? How valuable is the Father's glory? How deep was the hole that need filling?

5)

What was the Son's reward for His suffering? (Isaiah 53:10b-12; Hebrews 2:9)

6)

What does all of this tell you about the Father's love for his Son and for you?

GOING FURTHER

One thing we can do to train ourselves to remember, is to memorize a part of what our Father has said to us. The Holy Spirit can use this to change our thinking so that our "heads" are more like Jesus.

This week, memorize Isaiah 53:10

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