

This past Wednesday, we dealt with the guilt, penalty, and punishment of our sins against God...this is the legal aspect of our salvation:

What do I mean when I say LEGAL? Romans 5:12: "Wherefore, as by one man, sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so, death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned"

What is sin? 1 John 3:4 tells us: "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin IS the transgression of the law"

The word transgression here is the violation of God's law. This Greek word is also translated into the English word iniquity or unrighteousness.

No one likes to be in trouble with the law, it's a fearful thing to stand before a judge in a human courtroom if you are guilty of a crime or of breaking the law.

But how about standing before a judge, in a human court, being completely innocent of the charges being brought against you. Is it right to defend yourself against the accusations against you? It is. Deuteronomy 25:1

Last week we were in Isaiah 53:4-6: READ

In times past we refused to believe that Jesus was sent of God to be our Messiah and Savior, but NOW see that...

"Surely (IT WAS HE) who hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: YET we esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted"

We viewed Him as one who was cursed of God and forsaken by God...and we weren't wrong about that, but in our blindness, and in the callousness of our own hearts we could not see that... though HE was cursed and forsaken of God, it was not for Himself or for His own sins or transgressions against God, it was for our transgressions and sins against God!

God, in His wrath, struck Him down in my place and for my sins! If you're a Christian today, Jesus was stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted for you! 2 Corinthians 5:21, Isaiah 53:5-6

In our text this morning, Isaiah goes back and recounts something very notable about our Lord Jesus Christ. Isaiah 53:7-9

What Isaiah brings to our attention seems to me to be the prophecy of His arrest, His imprisonment, His cruel trials before wicked men, finally before Pontius Pilate, and afterward their inhumane treatment of Him.

He was oppressed and afflicted; meaning He was ill-treated with inhumane cruelty as if He was a common criminal. I can assure you that what we call brutality today would be considered child's play compared to how the Roman soldiers treated the Lord Jesus.

They imprisoned Him, judged Him, if not for Joseph of Arimathea, He would have been buried in a shallow grave on Golgotha.

"He made His grave with the wicked" ...meaning He died like the wicked die...

I recall your mind to a courtroom, and you're standing before the judge unjustly condemned and innocent of the crimes that you're being falsely accused of committing. Would you defend yourself? Would you plead your case and your innocence?

There would be nothing wrong with pleading your case and your innocence before the judge; but when Jesus was betrayed and arrested and brought before those wicked men who wanted to destroy Him, He was completely righteous and innocent in every way, THEY HAD NOTHING ON HIM... NEVER had He sinned (or transgressed God's law in any way), He kept every single precept of it.

Isaiah 53:9: "He had done no violence, neither was any deceit found in His mouth"

And here is the beautiful green pasture that I want us to spend the rest of our time in... Isaiah 53:7: "YET He opened not His mouth: He is brought as a Lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth"

HOW do we process the silence of the Lord Jesus suffering in innocence? What is He TEACHING US, and REVEALING to us by His refusal to answer those that falsely accused Him and called for His death? 1 Peter 2:21-25

Throughout the Word of God, you can read the prayers of the saints pleading with God to defend them and help them... but the Lord Jesus would not plead for Himself and His innocence, He would not defend Himself or try to prevent His death on the cross.

When He was betrayed and arrested, and Peter drew the sword to fight them off, Jesus said:

"Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?" Mark 8:31, 10:33-34

Matthew 26:47-68, (His answer to the high priest swearing, Leviticus 5:1), Matthew 27:12-14, Mark 15:1-5, Luke 23:8-9, John 19:1-9

The Lord Jesus answered none of their false charges or accusations against Him, but He remained voluntarily and silently submissive to what HE KNEW TO BE His Father's will. He answered none of these wicked men, so that He could ANSWER His Father's justice for every charge, every accusation, every transgression, and every sin for those He came to save.

Stephen Charnock wrote: "God's patience is the silence of His justice, and the first whisper of His mercy".

Romans 3:21-26, 1 John 2:2

And then, the Lord Jesus would not answer for Himself and plead His own defense for that would have been to love Himself for than those He came to save. His silence in His sufferings

and death DECLARED His great love for His people! John
10:11,15, 15:13, Romans 5:6-10, I John 4:7-11

And then finally, why didn't Jesus break His silence and plead
His case?

Matthew 26:53-54, Mark 8:27-31, 14:46-50, Luke 24:44-48