

## **HE Was Stricken, HE Was Smitten of God and HE Was Afflicted (Jesus Christ)**

**Text: Isaiah 52:13-53:6**

### **Introduction:**

1. Jesus came to His own people and they rejected Him (**John 1:11**).
2. They thought Jesus suffered because He had rebelled against God.
3. The reasons behind their thinking and their rejection of Jesus *are very telling*.
4. They reveal what can go *wrong* with religion, but they also point to the key ingredients in a *true relationship* with God.
5. **Jesus:** *loved too much, forgave too freely, spoke the truth too pointedly, rejected prejudice too zealously, condemned traditions too uncompromisingly, refused to play games too undiplomatically, and lived too commonly to suit popular convictions.*
6. This morning we will look at the implications of these things and learn more about the ways of people and the ways of God.

### **I. Jesus Loved Too Much (John 13:34-35).**

- A. Detached indifference had become the norm in the religion of Jesus' day (**Matthew 9:10-13**).
- B. Jesus could not ignore the needs of those around Him (*His compassion for others drove Him*) (**Matthew 9:35-38**).

### **II. Jesus Forgave Too Freely (John 8:1-11).**

- A. The self-righteous Jews found it hard to forgive (**Matthew 18:21-22; Luke 7:36-50**).
- B. Jesus loved to forgive (**Luke 19:10; 23:34**).

### **III. Jesus Spoke The Truth Too Pointedly (Matthew 23:1-33).**

- A. Neither the leaders nor the masses liked having the truth applied to them (**Luke 11:45; John 6:1-71**).
- B. Jesus never toyed with truth (*He did not "beat around the bush" or "sugar coat" the message*) (**Matthew 5:17-20; 22:16**).

#### **IV. Jesus Rejected Prejudice Too Zealously (John 4:1-9).**

- A. The Jews had considerable prejudice against Samaritans and Gentiles (**Luke 9:51-56; Acts 11:1-3**).
- B. Jesus cared for all men (**John 4:1-45; Matthew 8:1-13; Luke 2:25-32**).

#### **V. Jesus condemned traditions too uncompromisingly (Mark 7:1-23).**

- A. Much of the religious practices of the Jews centered on their traditions (**Galatians 1:14; Matthew 15:2; Mark 7:3**).
- B. Jesus would not allow traditions to replace the will of God (**Matthew 12:1-8**).

#### **VI. Jesus refused to play games too undiplomatically (John 2:23-25; 6:24-27; Matthew 22:15-18).**

- A. Hypocrisy was rampant in Jesus' day (**Matthew 7:1-5**).
- B. Jesus was always straightforward and honest (**Mark 12:14**).

#### **VII. Jesus lived too commonly (Luke 2:1-20).**

- A. The Jews could not accept a "*common*" Messiah (**John 6:41-42; Matthew 13:53-58**).
- B. Jesus showed that greatness does not require the outward adornment men regard so highly (**Matthew 7:28-29; John 7:46**).

#### **Conclusion:**

1. The peoples' reaction toward Jesus only showed how far removed they were from understanding God (**John 14:8-9**).
2. The true nature of God is seen in *love, forgiveness, and truth, concern for all men, absolute authority, genuineness, and a greatness that needs no adornment.*
3. Let us all learn a lesson from these things.