

Context**(Isaiah 53:11,12)**

- 1] Isaiah is prophesying some 700 years before Christ
- 2] ch 40-66 anticipate the coming of the 'servant of God.'
- 3] There are four passages / songs. Central to this is the last one (52:13-53:12).(This is the most quoted passage in the New Testament.)

(Luke 22:35-38)

- 1] It is the night before his betrayal and crucifixion
- 2] These are amongst his last words to his disciples.
- 3] In this he quotes Is 53:12 'And he was numbered amongst the transgressors'

'He was numbered with the transgressors' (Is. 53:12; Luke 22:37)**'He'**

The Jews, through the times of the Old Testament expect, the coming of a 'messiah' or 'anointed one'. His work would be to save and deliver his people. There were two strands to prophecies of this person

1] Triumphant king

This was the motif that the Jewish people exclusively held to. A King would come who would defeat all their enemies and reign on the throne for ever.

2] The suffering servant

This was the other side to the revelation of the Messiah, depicted bluntly in Is 53 – He was despised and rejected (3) He was oppressed and afflicted (7) they made his grave with the wicked (9)

This second expectation seems to have little place, as the Jews looked forward to their messiah, but with Jesus it was never an 'either / or' but it was a 'both / and'. He fulfilled them both but not at the same time.

Jesus came first in weakness born among us in poverty but as the Angel who foretold his birth said he would be – 'a saviour who is Christ the Lord' (2:11)

He grew up in obscurity for 30 years being acknowledged by none.

Then at his baptism by John, he is acknowledged by the Father as being 'the beloved son with who He is well pleased' (2:29)

During His 3 year ministry, He forgave sins, healed the sick, cast out demons and stilled the wind and the waves.

At the end of this, he was welcomed into Jerusalem by crowds, riding on a back of a donkey – the sign of a king coming in Peace.

However, he had warned his disciples during his ministry that he would be 'delivered to the gentiles and mocked and shamefully treated and spat upon. And after flogging him they will kill him and on the third day he will rise again.'

This was the Key – He would be raised from the Dead and he will return in Glory as he himself predicted as he was approaching Jerusalem for the last time. He said, 'And they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and glory' (21:27)

This ‘**he**’ was the suffering servant but He is and ever will be the triumphant King.
Keep your eyes fixed on that

‘Was numbered with’

This ‘suffering servant’ was going to identify completely with his people

Is this not what Jesus did with us?

He was born in poverty and raised in obscurity. He lived a single unmarried life until the age of 30 when he began His Work.

He was tempted by the devil. ‘In every way’ as we are told in Hebrews 4:15 ‘and yet was without sin’

He knew exhaustion, disappointment, rejection, desertion, injustice, torture and death. Supremely, as no other fellow man has yet known, he suffered the ultimate penalty for the sin before God, most terrifying of all, exclusion from his presence.

The sign of this inclusion with mankind, was his baptism by John. This baptism, Luke records, was one of ‘repentance for the forgiveness of sin’ (Lk3:3)

But why? When Jesus presented for it, John protested ‘I need to be baptised by you and do you come to me? Jesus replied ‘let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness (Mt 2:14,15)

In Isaiah’s prophecy, the Lord calls him ‘my servant, the righteous one’ The holy, perfect, sinless son of God has joined our sinful, recalcitrant, fallen humanity.

He has thrown his lot in with us. He has been ‘numbered with’ you and me.

The transgressors

The righteous one has been numbered with the transgressors.

Who are the transgressors and what have they transgressed.

The Word of God tells us that the Law of the Lord is perfect (Ps 19: 7). This is the Law that Jesus says he has come not to abolish but to fulfil (Luke 5:17b) – not to transgress but keep completely.

And who are the transgressors? Well, every single one of us. “There is no one righteous, not one, ...all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God”. (Rmn 3:10,23)

as Is 53 tells us of the suffering servant - Jesus

(4) He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows

(5) He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities

(6) The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all

(8) He was stricken for the transgression of my people

(11) He shall bear their iniquities.

(12) He bore the sin of many

And the result of this Isaiah tells us ‘by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous’ (11)

As Paul put it in the New Testament, ‘God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God’. (2 Cor 5:21)

And how do we receive this? Paul also says, ‘For in (the Gospel) a righteousness is revealed that is by faith for faith, for it is written ‘The righteous shall live by faith’ (Rmns 1:17,18)

The song ‘there is a green hill far away puts it like this

“There was no other good enough to pay the price of sin
He only could unlock the gates of Heaven and let us in”

Conclusion

1] This was the last teaching recorded by Luke

‘He was numbered with the transgressors’ (Is. 53:12; Luke 22:37)

2] Let me ask you this –

a) are you aware of your transgressions of God’s Law and your inadequacy before God?

b) Do you believe in Jesus’ death for you, the righteous for the unrighteous.

c) Then whatever is happening now – rejoice in the present reality of His Spirit, and the glorious hope of what he promises in the life to come.