

ISAIAH 53: SERVANT



A giant eye with lips (Isaiah – “**Eye say uh**”) has **5** eyelashes above and **3** eyelashes below. Inside the iris of the eye is an image of a **servant** washing feet.

+ The center image in this Key Chapter visual is one man washing another’s feet. It reminds us of Jesus, who washed the feet of the Apostles just hours before his crucifixion (see John 13:1-17). Washing feet was the job designated for servants. It was considered a lowly position to wash others’ feet. The “servant” who suffered unjustly in Isaiah 53, we see in the person of Jesus, who bore our sins upon the cross. In doing so, Christ, the greater, serves us, the lesser.

+ Isaiah starts this chapter with recognition of how incredible the plans of God are, “Who has believed our message...” In one sense the Israelites to whom this message came had greater respect for the powerful arm of God than we do. They likely did not doubt God’s ability to perform miracles – after all, they had seen among them such things as the plagues upon Egypt and the parting of the Red Sea! However, their problem was they were “stiff necked,” resistive to God’s plans.

Today, however, it seems our contemporaries idolize science and dismiss miracles. In terms of the Gospel we echo Isaiah, "Who has believed our message?" Many illegitimately take the label Christian, for they deny the physical resurrection of Christ and his return for the Judgment; they live in indifference toward God rather than reverence of Him. Yet, God's plans will unfold according to his pleasure.

+ It hurts to think that Jesus was, "a man of sorrows, familiar with suffering" (v.3). We would like for Jesus to have had a happy life, and at times he does seem happy. However, the Gospels do not paint the image of Jesus as carefree. He is often weary physically, assaulted by enemies who wish to do him harm, and feeling the need to move toward his final confrontation with his enemies and the cross. He even seemed to have periodic bouts with Satan's temptations, not just one incident. He is so marked by suffering that he warns his followers they must take up their *cross* and follow him!

Jesus' ministry is marked by a great deal of conflict. He was assaulted spiritually by temptations from Satan, had a running battle with Pharisees and teachers of the law, and ended his ministry (prior to the resurrection) being hauled between various courts where he was not given justice. Christians taking their cues from Christ should anticipate injustice from the world. Jesus is our example of how to remain spiritually grounded when all seems to break loose around us.