

# THE KING'S CROSS

The story of Jesus' final journey into Jerusalem, His confrontation with the people of Jerusalem and the authorities there, and his consequent trial and crucifixion is one of the most compelling historical narratives ever told. In these final chapters in Mark's gospel a massive crowd goes from celebrating Jesus' as their messiah to calling for his death within the week. We see the culmination of Jesus' ministry and the unveiling of His identity while He achieves His ends in an absolutely unthinkable way: The cross.

## STUDY GUIDE    ISAIAH 53

Stories of atonement run throughout the Old Testament. In the great climactic moment of the Exodus, God instructs the Israelites, whom He is releasing from Egypt, to slaughter a lamb and spread its blood over their door posts. As God's wrath comes pouring through the streets of Egypt it passes over the households with blood on their door posts.

The day of Yom Kippur was marked by the killing of a goat which would atone for the sins of the high priest and the sins of the people.

The high treason of Mark 12 cannot simply be forgotten. It cannot be treated as a small thing. Atonement must be made. God's mercy does not negate His holiness. They must meet. If we are to have any hope for mercy in the face of God's goodness, holiness, and righteousness, someone must die, blood must be poured out.

The cross is God's answer to this dilemma. Kings cannot treat treason lightly. Someone must die a traitor's death, and so in Jesus, God condemned sin in his own flesh. He dies the death of a traitor so that all of us who will ask for mercy on the grounds of Christ's death might receive it. This is the good news. This is the glory of God's love.

### Read ISAIAH 53 aloud together.

- 1) Did anything from the passage / sermon stick out to you – something you liked, disagreed with or didn't understand? Try to summarize the main idea of the passage / sermon.
- 2) Why does atonement for sin have to be made? Why can't God just forgive?
- 3) What characteristics of Christ and God the Father does this text reveal?

***This would be a good time to break into smaller groups of guys & girls. After working through the question take some time to pray for each member of your group.***

- 4) *Exercise Questions:* Are you aware of your need for mercy? Are you daily clinging to God's mercy?
- 5) Describe what you will do with what God has shown you through this text. How do you need His help to do this?