

## He Was Punished For Me

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed", Isaiah 53:5

Jesus did that for ME. Yet, over the past two thousand years, many millions of others have accepted the Gift offered.

We cannot even start to think of the joy that has been experienced by the Lord each time a sinner stretched out their spiritual hands to accept that gift.

The other side of the picture is not at all great.

Can we imagine our Lord's pain each time a sinner rejects the Lord's Gift?

Can we imagine our Lord's pain each time a redeemed sinner does not attempt to share that gift?

In the well-known picture of the Crucifixion by Rembrandt, it is said that if one is to look closely at the picture, you will see a self portrait of Rembrandt.

If we were really prepared to be honest, it should not be hard to find an image of each and every one of us there. Our sins today are no different to the sins of Rembrandt's day, or even those who were physically at the Crucifixion.

It is one thing to say "Christ died for the sins of the world". It seems nearly impossible for many to say, "Christ Died for me".

Consider the passage from Matthew, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,

And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.

Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:

That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

Behold, your house is left unto you desolate  
For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say,  
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord", Matthew 23:29-30  
and 34-39.

What did Isaiah Prophecy?

He was wounded for our transgressions.  
He was bruised for our iniquities,  
He was chastised that we could obtain peace,  
His stripes gave us healing.

What did Jesus suffer?

Nails in His Feet and Hands. A crown of thorns forced upon His Head.  
The skin taken from His Back by a Roman scourging. That was for our  
sins.

Carrying the beam of His Cross. That was for our immorality.

He was constantly harassed by those who should have known the  
Scriptures, but were driven by their satanic master to deny the prospect  
of peace and serenity.

He had recovered from His wounds, showing them to His Disciples, yet  
not troubled by them.

Are we any better than either Pilate or Caiaphas? Do we have more  
backbone than the disciples? Are we any better than the 'rent-a-mob'?

If not, it is time to kneel.