

## Jesus: Man of Sorrows [Isaiah 53] – March 29, 2023

**Jesus:** To some, a distant deity; unconnected, unknown. High/mighty power recent survey – 80% believe in God; but only 56% believe in God/Bible.

20% don't believe in God; but f/u – 10% believe Higher Power.

1/3 of people believe in higher power... a distant entity.

H.P.: *“a deity or another powerful but unknowable force”*

God is knowable. He wants to be known; relationship w/us.

Sending Jesus shows God didn't want to be distant. Personal relationship.

- **John 8:19** – While teaching in the temple, Jesus said: *“If you knew Me, you would know My Father as well.”*
- **John 14:7** – Jesus to his disciples: *“If you had really known me, you would have known the Father. But from now on, you do know him, and you have seen him.”*
  - **Jesus:** sent by God to know & be known.
  - **Jesus: knows** what we go thru; our trouble, temptations, grief etc.
    - **God does too. Psalm 56:8** – “You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book.”
    - **Heb. 4:13** – “Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight”

### The prophecy:

**Isaiah 53:3** – “He was despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.” **NKJV**

- **Cont. Engl. V** – “He was hated and rejected; his life was filled with sorrow and terrible suffering...”
  - **Jesus knew** what it's like to be **hated, despised**. Had enemies.
    - Pharisees plotted his death. Waited for opp to kill
      - Jealous w/ popularity, angry w/ lack of politics
      - Upset by many things... killed for blasphemer.
    - People were fickle. Sing praises, then shout crucify Him.
  - **Jesus knew: rejected**.
    - Temple leaders tried to stone him; unwelcome home town
    - “many disciples” walked away; “too hard” **John 6:66**

- **Jesus knew: sorrow & grief.**
  - Sorrow of leaving Heaven . . . sorrow of this life.
  - Sorrow of seeing followers walk away
  - He felt our Sorrow - Mary & Martha. **Jesus Wept**
  - Grief over people who didn't believe; refused Him.
    - Jerusalem - **Matt. 23:37** – “how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.”
      - The worst emotions of life, Jesus knew.
- **Hid our faces;** turned away from Him; didn't want to **look at Him**
  - Disciples ran; hid in questioning; distance at the cross
  - Who could watch Him suffer?

**Jesus knows what we go thru. He's understanding, knowable, touchable. He understands us.**

- There is nothing we face that Jesus didn't face.
- He knew grief, hatred, temptation.

**Jesus is knowable.**

- He was involved in life. Weddings, teaching, healing... proved Himself.
- He came so we could know the Love of God the Father.

**He is not a distant, untouchable deity.**

- When the disciples doubted, Jesus said – touch me.
  - “Look at my hands & my feet. It is I! *Touch me and see*; a ghost does not have flesh & bones, as you see I have.” **Luke 24:39**
- 8 days later, He said it again to Thomas: “Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Stop doubting and believe.” **John 20:27**

**Jesus fulfilled the prophecy.** He is real. He knows us. Do you know Him?

- Have you been doubting? Does Jesus seem distant? Unknowable?
- He came / know Him. He gets you. Touch. Stop doubting, believe.

**Song of the week – “Man of Sorrows” [Live] by Hillsong Worship**

2 weeks to Easter. 11 a.m. Bring a dish/brunch

5-3-23- “Restoration Reunion” – 35 days