

2023 Focus: Living by the Word of God Matthew 4:4

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Calvary – The Work of God

<u>Isaiah 53:4 - 11</u>

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When we look at the Cross, we must realize that it is the work of God – Isaiah 53:10. The cross was God's idea and God's plan for the redemption of man – John 1:29. The cross was God's payment for our sins through Jesus Christ – John 3:16, 1 John 2:1-2. Even though God's sovereignty used sinful men to accomplish His plan, it was nonetheless the work of God – Luke 24:7, Matthew 17:22-23, Mark 10:45.

Verses 1-3 summarizes how religious people who read and knew the scriptures did not recognize the work of God through the Messiah – Jesus Christ. The phrase, "Who has believed our report," implies that in spite of the prophesies, the Word of God, only a few would recognize Jesus when He came – John 1:9-11. Many did not then and even now do recognize the mighty incarnate power of God in the person of Jesus, our deliverer.

Jesus was sent by God to be our substitute. Listen to verse #4 – the Jews thought that Jesus was being punished for His own sin as they watched Him die, but He was being punished in our place for all of the consequences of sins of men, namely griefs and sorrows of life.

Verse #5 shows how Jesus dies for us on the Cross.

<u>5a. Wounded for our transgressions</u> – wounded means a violent, excruciating death. It was because of our willful rebellion against God, transgressions. Also, our revolt against God.

<u>5b. Bruised for our iniquities</u> – bruised is to be beaten down and crushed physically. God did beat down and crush Jesus for our iniquities – sin that turns good into evil.

<u>5c. Chastisement of our peace</u> – that means Jesus's body was cut for us. Stripes – blows that cut Jesus.

Verse #6 teaches that the entire human race is guilty before God. Romans 3:9-10, 23, Romans 6:23.

Verses 7-9 describes what happened at the cross.

Verse 9-11 This is God's doing, and it pleased God.