

Communion Meditation – The Suffering Servant
Isaiah 53.1 Ignored July 10th, 2011

From Remarkable (last week) to Ignored (this week)

- The gospel shocked kings into silence (**52.15b**)
- Yet it is so easily overlooked and ignored, trodden underfoot
- It is not showy and proud yelling out “**LOOK AT ME!**”
- It is just the opposite, quietly whispering “*Come to me. . .*”
- The gospel does **not command** – **it entreats** . . .

v1a ~ “Who has believed our report?”

- This is a rhetorical question ~ It is asked in dismay . . .
 - Quoted by Paul in **Rom 10.16** (Read **Rom 10.13-16**)
- How Paul references it implies unbelief
- What indicates the unbelief? ~ “*disobedience to the gospel*”
- What is obedience to the gospel? ~ “*trusting in Jesus for salvation*”

v1b ~ “And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

- This is also a rhetorical question . . .
 - Quoted by John in **John 12. . .** (Read **John 12.27-39**)
- What is meant by “the arm of the Lord”?
 - Most commentators take this to mean Jesus or the gospel
 - They then imply the answer is “*few*” ~ “ if “to whom” is “upon whom”
 - i.e., not the power of God in creation – but in salvation
- But perhaps “*all*” is the answer to this rhetorical question
 - **Read Rom 1.16-24a ~ v19 ~ “God has shown it to them”**
 - Regardless of whether “*few*” or “*many*” (or even all) is meant
 - We know that unbelieving man is without excuse (**Rom 1.18** “*suppress*”)
- **John 12.37** ~ “*although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him*”

Many people saw the miracles Christ performed ~ Why did they not believe?

People choose unbelief ~ They think they’re free to define their reality . . .

They think rejection of Christ frees them from an obligation to accept the truth

We thank God that He has opened our eyes and ears to hear and obey the truth . . .