



BLD

NEWARK

Community
Teaching

**GROWING IN CHRIST:
SUFFERING SERVANT
PROPHECIES FROM
THE BOOK OF ISAIAH
A 6-PART SERIES**

PART 4 OF 6

June 10, 2020

Presented by: Msgr. Paul Schetelick

- **What is the meaning of suffering? Isaiah 50**
- This is one of the most profound questions that confront the human condition. In our passage from Isaiah, we hear the musings of a prophet who is seeking to make sense of the painful realities of exile.
 - abandoned
 - tired
 - oppressed
 - tempted
 - seduced by culture
 - downtrodden
 - persecuted
 - unhappy
 - unable to go on
 - suffering hardships
 - disgusted
 - doubtful of God
 - seeking acceptance through idolatry
 - overwhelming grief



- Being a Christian does not protect us from suffering. How could it be? Paul writes that our salvation is given us in a way that must pass through suffering
- (Rom. 8:16-17) “The Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with Him so that we may be glorified with Him.”
- Paul and the disciples proclaimed good news to that city
- (Acts 14:22) “ They strengthened the spirits of the disciples there and exhorted them to persevere in the faith, saying ‘It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God’”
- Suffering is built into the Christian life, not just because we are human, but because we are Christians bound to Jesus who also suffered.



The power of verse 6

- Isaiah 50:6

“I gave my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who plucked my beard.
My face I did not shield from buffets and spitting.”

Two forms of suffering born out of the existence of evil and sin:

1. Earned Suffering: product of personal and communal choices

Isaiah 50:1

“It was for your sins that you were sold, for your crimes that your
mother was dismissed”

2. Unearned Suffering: product of natural disasters, war, physical illness or
 - disability, prejudice, injustice, unprovoked violence, or injury,
 - abuse of any kind, loss of anyone or anything



Ephesians 6:12-16

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.”



Homework:

- Read All of Isaiah 52 and 53
- Concentration on 4th Servant Hymn, the Suffering Servant : Isaiah 52:13-53:12





Send your Questions to either
Zoom Webinar Q&A or
Email to Teaching@BLDNewark.com