

Imagine that you gave up everything that you had – every last dollar in your checking account, every dollar in your savings account, all the food in your refrigerator, your car, your TV, your house. Imagine that you gave up your good name, your reputation. Imagine that you gave up every last thing that you had. You might possibly do that for your children. But today's Bible passage says that Jesus gave up every last thing he had *for sinners*. Today we are going to see that Christ had it all. And Christ gave it *all*, for sinners.¹ Christ gave his life for sinners.

Before Jesus became human, he had it all. He had the glory of heaven. He had the worship of the holy angels. And he deserved every bit of it. Why would he ever leave? Why would he ever leave heaven and come down here to earth?

He came down to here to earth because we had lost it all. By our rebellion against God we had lost our righteousness, our good standing with God. Because we rebelled against God we were condemned to an eternity in hell. We had lost it all.

And so Jesus gave it all to save us. Our passage says that he “poured out his life unto death” (Isaiah 53:12). This pictures Jesus' life like a pitcher of water and Jesus poured out every last drop. Jesus gave it all.

Think of all the things that Jesus gave up. In heaven, he had a perfect existence with none of the consequences of sin - no pain, no sickness. But earlier in Isaiah 53 it says, “Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering” (Isaiah 53:4). In our passage it says, “It was the LORD's will to crush him and to cause him to suffer” (Isaiah 53:10). The Hebrew word for “cause him to suffer” usually means “cause him to be sick.” Jesus gave up his painless existence that he had in heaven to come and suffer the consequences of sin with us..

Another thing that Jesus gave up in order to save us was his good name, his reputation. He alone truly deserves a good reputation because he alone has done absolutely nothing wrong. In this passage the LORD calls Jesus “my righteous servant” (53:11). Jesus was completely righteous. He deserved to have his good name, his good reputation. But he gave that up. Our passage says, “He was numbered with the transgressors” (53:12). He hung on the cross right between two criminals and lots of people walked by and saw it. Jesus gave up his painless existence in heaven. He gave up his good reputation.

And worst of all, he gave up the presence of his Father. Our passage says, “he bore the sin of many” (Isaiah 53:12). Because Jesus took our place, God the Father looked at him as if he were the sinner. And the frightening consequence of sin is to be banished from the presence of God. And that's why Jesus on the cross says, “My God, my God why have you forsaken me?” (27:46) He gave it all: his painless existence in heaven, his good reputation, even the loving presence of his Father.

And after suffering abandonment by God Jesus gave up his life. The gospel of John says, “When he had received the drink Jesus said, ‘It is finished.’ With that he bowed his head and gave up his spirit” (John 19:30). Jesus gave it all, for you. He poured out his life unto death, for you.

Because Jesus died for you, your sins have been paid for. Our passage says, “the LORD makes his life a sin offering” (53:10). The penalty for your sins has been paid by Jesus sacrifice. Through faith in Jesus' sacrifice God justifies you. Our passage says, “my righteous servant will *justify* many” (Isaiah 53:11). Here is a definition of the word justify: “**To declare not guilty. This word pictures a judge in a court room telling a criminal that there is no longer any charge against him.**”² Through faith in Jesus; sacrifice you are justified. In God's courtroom there is no longer any charge against you because Jesus has paid for your sins.

¹ I owe this to Reed Lessing, *Isaiah 40-55* (St. Louis: Concordia, 2011), 623.

² *Luther's Catechism* (Milwaukee: Northwestern, 2017), 380.

Because Jesus has paid for our sins and we have been justified, we also have life. Jesus' death gives us life. Our passage says, **"he will see his offspring."** We are Jesus' offspring because his death has given us life. He gave it all and now we have eternal life.

This passage comes at the end of Isaiah 53. Isaiah 53 describes how Jesus suffered to pay for all of our sins. Earlier in the chapter it says, "He was pierced for our transgressions. He was crushed for our iniquities. The punishment that brought us peace was upon him and by his wounds we have been healed." Christ gave it all so that we could be healed. Isaiah 53 shows how Christ emptied himself of everything he had. But the end of Isaiah 53 also shows what God the Father did for Jesus after Jesus gave it all.

It says, "After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied" (Isaiah 53:10) When it says, "After he has suffered, he will see the light of life" that's talking about Jesus's resurrection. He will see the light of life means that he will be raised from the dead. And then it says, "he will be satisfied" (53:10). Jesus poured himself out when he died, but then God filled him back up. The apostle Paul wrote: **"Christ humbled himself by becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place" (Philippians 2:8-9)** Jesus poured himself out – every last drop, he poured out his life unto death. And then God filled him back up. It says, "he will be satisfied."

Because Jesus poured out himself for us. Let's pour out ourselves in behalf of other people. We can pour out ourselves in service to other people because we know that God will fill us back up, both in this life and especially in heaven. Let's pour ourselves out by giving of our money to help those in need. Let's pour ourselves out by giving of our time, giving of our energy in service to others.

Jesus is our example. He poured himself out for us. And even now in glory Jesus is still giving. Our passage says, "he will divide the spoils with the strong." When a conquering army would conquer a town, the soldiers would take things from the deserted houses, things like jewelry and food and clothing. They kept those things for themselves. Those were called "spoils." Our passage says "he will divide the spoils with the strong." The picture is that Jesus has been given many "spoils," many rewards or blessings because he gave up his life for us. And Jesus shares those blessings with us: "he will divide the spoils with the strong."

What blessings or spoils does Jesus share with us? Well, from his glorious throne in heaven Jesus gives to us the Holy Spirit so that we believe his holy Word. In the book of Acts Peter said, **"Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear" (Acts 2:33).**

Jesus also pours out on us many spiritual gifts. The apostle Paul said, **"But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says, 'When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.' ... So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" (Ephesians 4:7-8; 11-12).**

Christ gave it all for us on the cross and he's still giving to us even in glory. As we receive his gifts, let's follow his example and pour ourselves out in service to other people. Amen.