

The servant suffered for our sin

⁴ Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.
⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.
⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

This stanza is the heart of the song. And it could not be clearer why the servant suffered. The servant who committed no sin was punished by God for our sin.

We tend to minimise the seriousness of our sin. We like to think of ourselves as quite good people who slip up occasionally, and surely my good outweighs my bad so 'I'm ok with God.'

But if that is the case why did Jesus need to suffer and die for our sin?

These verses in Isaiah help us see how serious sin is: more deadly than coronavirus, because it destroys our relationship with our creator, the one who gives us life. Sin is so destructive that the eternal Son of God had to bear the pain and suffering we deserve from God, he had to be pierced, crushed, punished so that we could be restored to peace, so our relationship with God could be healed.

Take a few moments first to dwell upon what Jesus endured for your sin: read through v5 and v6 place your own name, your own sins, and 'I' in place of the words 'our', and 'us' like this:

Lord God help me see that you, in Christ, were pierced on the cross for my sin of.....

Please Lord show me more of the reality of my sin of.....that Christ had to be crushed for that.

And then take a few more moments to praise and thank God for his great love for you in Christ, for all the benefits we have as God's people flow from Christ's death in our place on the cross! You may want to use these NT verses to turn to praise:

God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom 5v8).

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Cor 5v21).