

True prosperity.

¹³ See, my servant will act wisely;

he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.

¹⁴ Just as there were many who were appalled at him –

his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being
and his form marred beyond human likeness –

¹⁵ so he will sprinkle many nations,

and kings will shut their mouths because of him.

For what they were not told, they will see,

and what they have not heard, they will understand.

What does a prosperous life look like? In the first line of the servant song in Isaiah 52v13 we learn that God's servant will act wisely or live a prosperous life and he will be highly exalted.

Yet to the world's eyes, v14, this servant was someone many were appalled by. He would even suffer wretched physical disfigurement. His life looked far from prosperous.

But in a startling reversal, v15, what looks like a waste of a life to many of the powerful elites of this world (kings), would become God's means of eternal salvation. Sprinkling refers to the OT practice of sprinkling with the sacrificial blood of animals to cleanse from sin. 1 Peter 1v2 declares Christians are those who have been sprinkled with the blood of Jesus.

The powerful elites will shut their mouths because of him because their notions of prosperity and power and success in this life are shown to be so foolish in light of the gospel – the news that is now being told (v15) across the world (by us!) that Jesus Christ is Lord.

So, let us thank God for Jesus, for his sprinkling of us by his blood to cleanse us from our sins. And let us ask God to re-shape the way we think about true prosperity – that we would see a life of sacrificial service of others for the sake of their salvation, which the world derides, as a beautiful life of love.