

PURE PASSION

ZERO WEEK

AN ATHLETE STUDY

THE PURE PASSION OF THE GREATEST

The finale of Superbowl XLIX (49) had the Seahawks one yard from beating the Patriots. It unforgettably ended with an incomplete pass instead of handing the ball to Marshawn Lynch, the league-leading TD rusher. One writer stated Pete Carroll's decision "deserves every bit of criticism it will get from here to eternity."

But Carroll's call won't be buzzing for eternity. God reserved that distinction for the play *he* called. God planned his call from eternity and executed it flawlessly. Indeed, God's call led to *certain* victory...but with a very heavy price. That call and its price forms the focus of our study: *The Pure Passion of The Greatest*—a study of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

ISAIAH 53:2B-11

²...he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. ⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? ⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Every Week, this section will include bonus material—articles, videos, or other resources—to aid you in your understanding of the Scripture, challenge you in your application, or to encourage you in your worship.

For example, scan the QR code to hear Hillsong Worship sing *Man of Sorrows*. Join in worship by singing or just meditating on the lyrics and message of the song.



DISCUSSION

As we begin our study, what motivated you to join?

1. How was the "man of sorrows" received by those who saw him? (2-3)

2. What words and phrases are used to describe the suffering endured by God's servant? (4-9)

3. Who is ultimately responsible for the servant's suffering and why? (10-11)

4. What does it mean that "all we like sheep have gone astray"? (See also Romans 3:10-12)

5. The Lord loved you enough that he did all of this to his son (John 3:16). Who has God laid on your heart that you can begin praying for to receive him or to invite to this study?

ICEBREAKER

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

In this section, we want to challenge you and to remind you of the single greatest asset you have while participating in this study, your Coach. They're here for you!

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STUDY NOTES

THE SUFFERER

Read Isaiah 53 and ask yourself, who is it talking about? It perfectly describes one person that most people will guess, Jesus of Nazareth—the *man of sorrows acquainted with grief*. Now, consider that it was written about 700 years before Jesus was born!

As Jesus went about his earthly ministry he healed people, he drove out demons, and he taught. Eventually, his teaching garnered the attention of the religious leaders of the Sanhedrin. These were men of great influence and power—all of which Jesus threatened by his teaching.

These men knew the Old Testament backwards and forwards. They knew God's Messiah would come, however, they misunderstood his coming. They expected him to come in power and majesty, but had he come to judge the world, not one person could ever be saved. *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way.* The devastation of sin still reigned. That's why *it was the will of the Lord to crush him. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one... make many to be accounted righteous.*

WHY IS THIS STUDY IMPORTANT?

The word "passion" can have many meanings—romance, intense emotion, or enthusiasm. However, as we talk about the Passion of Christ, we are referring to the word's 10th century Latin root meaning "to suffer or endure." This study is called "*Pure Passion*" because we are talking about a passion that is godly; something only God could have done. This is the kind of passion perfectly expressed by Christ, motivating him to endure the last excruciating hours of his life on Earth. But why is this study on Jesus' passion, his suffering and death, so important to Bible study and, more specifically, for an athlete?

God answered this question by his own focus on it. As an athlete, you know what your coaches care about by how much they focus on it—or how many push-ups you do if you forget it. The four books that tell the story of Jesus' life (called the Gospels), have 85 chapters, 13 chapters of those 85 are devoted to Jesus' last day on Earth. That doesn't sound like much until we realize that only 4 chapters of the 85 say anything about the first 30 years of Jesus' life.

God, like your coach, focuses on what's important!

WHAT KIND OF STUDY IS IT?

If you've done an athlete study previously, this one will be slightly different. Unlike last semester's study, we're not looking at a single book. We're studying the final week of Jesus' earthly life through the camera lens of each of the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Each writer, led by the Holy Spirit, operates like a camera covering a play. They each have their own angle.

Matthew (Camera 1)—A hated tax collector turned disciple. As an educated Jew, he highlights events, issues, and truths from a Jewish perspective.

Mark (Camera 2)—One of the youngest followers of Christ. He wrote the very first and shortest account of Christ's life. Seeing it from both Roman and Jewish perspectives, he frequently explains Jewish culture and terms to his non-Jewish readers.

Luke (Camera 3)—As a medical doctor, Luke notices people and the significance of events as it relates to humanity, not just Israel.

John (Camera 4)—Likely the youngest of the twelve disciples, John composed his Gospel much later than the other three and focuses on philosophical and theological aspects of Christ's words and works. For example, John alone dedicates entire chapters to Christ's discourses and intercessory prayer outside of Gethsemane on the night of his betrayal.

As we progress through Jesus's story, we will display the coverage from one of four monitors.

MATTHEW



MARK



LUKE



JOHN



Each Week we will be examining a "play" (or event in Christ's life) indicated on the monitors appearing in bold text. The additional angles of the various gospels may be referenced in the study notes, but they will not be the primary focus for the Week.

Week 1 opens our study of Christ's Passion explaining why Christ had to come...to conquer sin and death. It's a penalty plaguing all of us since Genesis 3. Week 2 begins Christ's "Passion Week" as he enters Jerusalem. We'll look at a few key events of that last week before sitting down with his disciples for the Passover meal. That's when we'll cover events, play-by-play, over his last 24 hours (Passover till death). Finally, in Weeks 11-12, we'll look at Jesus' pure passion from his resurrection through his ascension.

The Bible tells us that Christ, right now, is sitting at the right hand of the Father. He has finished his work, victorious. As we examine the cost of what he accomplished we pray that you'll be motivated to share what you're learning with others.