



DAILY DEVOTIONAL FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY FOR MARCH 16, 2012

A DEEP REVELATION

...the punishment that brought us peace was upon him. (Isaiah 53:5, NIV)

ARE YOU INTO *AH-HA!* MOMENTS, those times when every cloud seems to roll back and the light of understanding streams through?

It sure helps when you're in the middle of a golf round and such a breakthrough grabs your attention. A grip adjustment, maybe, or a new takeaway thought. You can go from grumbling and groaning—every golfer's default condition—to finding the utopian groove and nailing shot after shot. Yes!

We have started among our staff at Links Players to talk about the need of every man and woman if they are to be moved to receive Jesus: they must have a *deep revelation* of the cross. This is not just a symbol-on-the-wall moment. This is a full understanding of the sacrifice of Jesus for the sake of 10 billion and more people throughout time (including you and me) who could not pay the price of their own sins.

When we open our Bibles to Isaiah 53, we come to one of those revolutionary *ah-has!* We can hear about Jesus and read about Jesus and even respect Jesus in a number of religious environments with no real meaning, just like we can swing a golf club a thousand times and not really figure out what's going on. We can even piece together the theological puzzle of sacrificial lambs and necessary bloodshed and the crucifixion of Jesus and not be blown away so that our soul releases itself to all that is wonderful about that saving work.

A deep revelation of the cross makes critical connections that bring it all together. It recognizes that the punishment Jesus took in that dark hour had everything to do with us. That was the suffering that washed away *our* sin. That was the death that brought *us* peace. Those were the stripes of affliction that healed *our* broken hearts. That is the "ah!" Now here is the "ha!": this punishment had even more to do with Jesus. For in his taking it on himself for our sake, he is not just Savior but King. He carried out the act of his own coronation and gained his lasting place at the right hand of the Father, enthroned on our praises for his stunning work. And we praise him from the depths of that grand revelation!

The death of our Lord

Read Isaiah 53:4-12, followed by a reading of John 19:16-37.

What details of Jesus' death are revealed to us in these passages?

What several things were done on our behalf?

How was Jesus exalted through this act?

Fresh revelation

How are you personally moved today by the dying act of Jesus? How will you freshly exalt him this year as you continue to move toward the remembrance of his death and resurrection during Passion Week?
