



**SPRING-TIME DAILY
ENCOURAGEMENTS**

Carstairs-Bancroft United Church

April 11, 2023



Photo: Our Daily Bread

DEEPER HEALING

By his wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53:5

READ Isaiah 53:4–6

On Easter Sunday 2020, the famous Christ the Redeemer statue that overlooks Rio de Janeiro in Brazil was illuminated in a way that appeared to clothe Jesus in the attire of a physician. The poignant portrayal of Christ as a doctor was in tribute to the many frontline health-care workers battling the coronavirus pandemic. The imagery brings to life the common description of Jesus as our Great Physician (Mark 2:17).

Jesus healed many people of their physical afflictions during His earthly ministry: blind Bartimaeus (10:46–52), a leper (Luke 5:12–16), and a paralytic (Matthew 9:1–8), to name a few. His care for the health of those following Him was also demonstrated in providing for their hunger by multiplying a simple meal to feed the masses (John 6:1–13). Each of these miracles reveal both Jesus' mighty power and His genuine love for people.

His greatest act of healing, however, came through His death and resurrection, as foretold by the prophet Isaiah. It is "by [Jesus'] wounds we are healed" of our worst affliction: our separation from God as a result of our sins (Isaiah 53:5). Though Jesus doesn't heal all our health challenges, we can trust the cure for our deepest need: the healing He brings to our relationship with God.

By Kirsten Holmberg

PRAY & REFLECT

Jesus, thank You for Your sacrifice that brings healing to my spiritual sickness. Help me to trust You in my physical challenges. Amen.

How have you experienced the miraculous spiritual healing of God? How does your healed relationship through Jesus' sacrifice help you bear up under your physical ailments?

SCRIPTURE INSIGHT

Isaiah 52:13–53:12 is called the "Suffering Servant" passage and is one of Isaiah's best-known texts. In fact, The Bible Knowledge Commentary points out that this passage is repeatedly quoted in the New Testament, including Isaiah 52:15 in Romans 15:21; Isaiah 53:1 in John 12:38 and Romans 10:16; Isaiah 53:4 in Matthew 8:17; Isaiah 53:7–8 in Acts 8:32–33; Isaiah 53:9 in 1 Peter 2:22; and Isaiah 53:12 in Luke 22:37. The many citations from this text make sense when the "Suffering Servant" is seen as Jesus whose great suffering would produce great glory. Others see the suffering servant as Isaiah himself, or perhaps Jeremiah. Jewish scholars often see the suffering servant as a picture of Israel. When matching up the descriptions of the sufferer in Isaiah's text with the Gospels, it's easy to see why so many believers in Jesus view this as a messianic prophecy. – By **Bill Crowder**

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