

## Why Me Lord?

Isaiah 53:1-11

1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?

2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

10 Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

2 Corinthians 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

The fact is: What we consider our losses and crosses define us more than our victories.

Character is developed in our deepest trials. The measuring stick of God is never placed on us on our mountain tops; It's always in our valleys. Character is a distinguishing quality of ethical traits that set you aside from the norm. Your character is something that comes naturally without effort.

Spending too much time on the mountain tops has a tendency to make some people prideful and forgetful about the trials that others are going through. Always remember that your soul is only restored in the valley. Valleys are where green pastures are found and it's a place of still waters.

Your reaction to your loss and cross will determine your character, spiritual growth, and your victories.

The opinions we have formed in our minds about Job, did not take place when he was a Millionaire. They were put in our minds in his darkest hour.

When he had lost everything, sores all over his body, everything taken away from him, His wife said curse God and die.

His words let us see his true character; The Lord gives and The Lord takes away: blessed be the name of the Lord.

There are many people, today, that need to hear me. When your trial comes, and it will, your reaction will let those around you see your true character. It also lets God see what you really are.

So what you're in a valley, quit feeling sorry for yourselves. Keep the faith and don't let your circumstances affect your worship, tithing, facial expressions, church attendance, and prayer life.

Our statement every day should say this; **I'm having a great day.** I do have valleys, but you and the devil will never know about it. The devil only knows what you tell him or he hears you tell others. I'm going to smile and praise God every day I live.

**Psalm 34:1 I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.**

If I convicted your heart today, say, "Praise The Lord, thank you Jesus. That's what I needed to hear."

At least let me hear you say amen or I'm going to do better. It will take this to get you blessed and it is a matter of heaven or hell.