

Journey towards the Cross

Topic:

Jesus paid our price fully.

Bible Portion:

Isaiah 53:05

Focus:

The Prophecy: He paid
our price fully.



April 01, 2026

A daily devotional for lent season

40-Day Gospel Reading Plan

Bible Readings for Today

John 17-18



Have you Read your
Bible today?

Memory Verse for the day

**“And this is eternal
life, that they know
you, the only true God,
and Jesus Christ whom
you have sent.”**

John 17:03 (ESV)

Quote

**“Christ took upon
Himself the
punishment due to us.”**

- John Calvin

In the UAE, a beautiful tradition of mercy takes place during National Day and major festivals like Eid. Prisoners who cannot pay off huge debts remain behind bars. Yet, when a prisoner qualifies for a royal pardon, the ruler not only sets him free but also personally settles the entire debt and declares him free.

This earthly picture of grace points us to a more important truth. *Isaiah 53:05* declares, “*But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.*”

Who is this Suffering Servant of the Lord? Jewish tradition often interprets the servant as a collective reference to the nation of Israel and its role among the nations. However, from the very beginning, the Apostles and the Christian Church have seen this prophecy clearly fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

The encounter between Philip and the Ethiopian

official in *Acts 08:26–39* powerfully illustrates this. As the Ethiopian read *Isaiah 53*, Philip explained that the passage pointed to Jesus—the Suffering Servant who died for our sins. Salvation and new life through this Suffering Savior remain the central message of the Church.

Unbearable Punishment

The Bible describes our helpless condition. Sin and disobedience have damaged the image of God in us beyond repair. *Romans 06:23* states, “*The wages of sin is death.*” We lost communion with a holy God and faced eternal separation. Sin is like an ever-growing debt with unending interest. No matter how many payments we make, the burden only increases. The repeated shedding of animal blood in the Old Testament was like making regular installments—temporary relief without lasting freedom. But God had a better plan.

Unimaginable Price

God paid a heavy price on the cross. Jesus, though found innocent by Pilate, was flogged, mocked, and crucified. Why did God allow Christ to suffer? *Colossians 1:19–20* explains that God was pleased to reconcile all things to Himself. Lasting peace was made through the blood of Christ. It was not Pilate, but God the Father, who offered His only begotten Son (*John 03:16*). The cross was the full price Christ paid to save us.

Unconditional Pardon

Isaiah promises that by His

wounds we are healed. Because Christ paid the full price once for all, we have the sure hope of eternal life. An earthly ruler pardons only those who show good behavior and meet certain conditions. Yet *Romans 5:8* declares, *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* Notice the words “still sinners.” God does not set terms and conditions for us to qualify for forgiveness. We do not become good enough first. Instead, we live righteously because of His unconditional love and unmerited grace.

I remember a flight from Sharjah to Mumbai years ago. Two men, returning home on company-paid tickets, hesitated to order tea because it was chargeable. When food was served, they declined again, fearing the cost. The air hostess smiled and said, “It is fully paid.” When they



realized that their tickets included meals at no extra cost, their faces lit up with relief and joy.

Friends, do not be deceived by the lie that you must do something more to please God. That too is a form of self-righteousness. The Suffering Messiah has already paid our full price. All who simply believe in Jesus Christ are accepted as one hundred percent children of God.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Christ. He paid for us and cried, “It is finished.” Help us experience this freedom. Amen.

-Rev. Stephen Dharmaraj Marian



Prayer Point



Let us pray for Rev. Stephen Dharmaraj Marian, Rev. Sunil Jagannath Awale, Rev. J. Suresh Kumar, Rev. Swapnil Vijay Uzgare, Rev. Ulhas Vijay Devkule, and Rev. Vasudev Vamanrao Deshmukh and for their families and the churches entrusted to them.

