

“The Wounded Healer”

Isaiah 53: 5

Preached by Dr. Robert F. Browning, Pastor

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Stone Mountain, Georgia

July 21, 2002

Communion Devotion

In November 1973, my sister-in-law, Sandra, gave one of her kidneys to her sister, Loma. Sandra's sister was suffering from the same disease that took their mother's life at the age of forty-three. Without Sandra's kidney, the doctors said that Loma would have lived only a month longer. However, because of that transplant, Loma has enjoyed good health for almost thirty years and watched her children and grandchildren grow up.

How do you think Loma feels about Sandra? I don't have to tell you, do I? You know how you would feel. Words could never adequately express your gratitude.

“By his wounds, we are healed” Isaiah 53:5. That truth took on new meaning for our family after 1973. We've not struggled to understand it after Sandra was wounded to help her sister.

“By his wounds, we are healed.” How can we observe communion without understanding these words? Their meaning is right before us. Let me explain.

“By his wounds, we are healed.” Sounds like someone is sick. Is it serious? Yes. What's the problem? The sickness is due to sin, a selfish attitude that leads to destructive behavior.

Who has this illness? According to Isaiah, everyone does. Isaiah 53:6 begins and ends the same way. *“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way, and the Lord has laid upon him the iniquity of us all.”* Paul picked up on this in Romans 3:23, *“All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”*

What's the prognosis? *“The wages of sin is death”* Romans 6:23a. Sin kills everything it touches, everything. It weakens and destroys a person's self-esteem, respect for others, influence, potential, relationships and eventually their life. That's serious.

Is there any hope? Yes. **“By his wounds, we are healed.”** Whose wounds? Jesus. The very Son of God who came to teach and show us a better way to live was rejected, crucified and buried. He was not merely an organ donor, as important as that is. He gave his life, all he had. Why?

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life” John 3:16.

“By his wounds we are healed.” How do you feel about what Jesus did for you? Why not tell him while we observe communion?