



AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE REGARDING THE RIPPLE EFFECT...

CROSSROADS CHURCH - 3 YEAR CAMPAIGN TO END THIRST

SOAP READING—March 21, 2010

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S: Isaiah 53

O: We do a lot to try to hide our weaknesses. We ignore them. We work around them. We deny them. We don't even like to say the word any more. So we changed the name. Now we call our weaknesses, "growth areas."

What if you went into a job interview and the reason they said they decided to hire you had nothing to do with your skills, experience, or strength. What if they hired you because of your weakness?

To do that would mean that the other employees would have to make up for where you fell short. In essence, when the job required you to do something in the area where you were weak, the rest of the team would have to carry you.

That, BTW, is exactly what God is doing in this verse. He carries us when our weaknesses weigh us down. He took our "growth areas" into himself, so that our load would be lighter. On the cross he took our sin on himself so that we might have a relationship with God.

2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ."

Growth area...or weakness...or sin. Whatever we call it, a sacrifice by any other name would never smell as sweet.

A: James: "Well, that was the decision they made and now they need to deal with the consequences of their actions."

I hate when I find myself either making that statement or thinking that thought about someone else. Why? One simple reason – I have been set free from so much by God.

Jesus has taken my burdens...my addictions...my obsessions...my hurt...my pain...my regret...my weakness...my sin...upon himself. He has nailed it to the cross and refuses to allow me to take it back again.

May I begin to extend that grace to others and, like Jesus, help them to carry their load as well.

P: Jesus, thank you for calling my "growth areas" what they really are...weaknesses. Thank you for picking them up when they were far too heavy a burden for me to carry. Give me eyes to see the loads that others carry and the strength to help shoulder their weight as well. Amen.