

# STAGE FIVE

## LOVE AND NAILS

### **LISTEN - read - ponder - seed**

Listen to Isaiah 53 v 1-9



### **listen - READ - ponder - seed**

Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. They spat on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull")...When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: this is Jesus, the King of the Jews. MATTHEW 27 v 27-31 & 33-37

### **listen - read - PONDER - seed**

The piece you just listened to was written 700 years prior to the events you just read about. Isaiah was a prophet in Israel and spoke of the Messiah as one who would suffer. Jesus' death fulfilled all that Isaiah saw. It's hard listening and hard reading. Brutal and terrible. But...it wasn't out of the blue. A number of Old Testament prophets predicted it, and Jesus himself spoke of it multiple times. In fact it was full of purpose and intent. The prophet wrote, "the punishment that brought us peace was on him" and, "he was pierced for our transgressions". Jesus died for us as part of God's plan and purpose that we might be forgiven, healed, and reconciled. A plan to remedy every ill. It was the love of God, uncontainable, unstoppable marching through history towards one defining moment of sacrifice and victory. The apostle John said it so well, "this is how we know what love is, Jesus Christ laid down his life for us."

### **listen - read - ponder - SEED**

Spend a few moments at the cross, acknowledging sin, receiving forgiveness and thanking God for loving us like this. Pick up a nail and hold it as you read these words of Horatio Spafford. Feel free to take it with you, perhaps keep it somewhere visible for the next few days as a reminder.

"My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!  
My sin, not in part but the whole,  
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!"

