

## For Reflection:

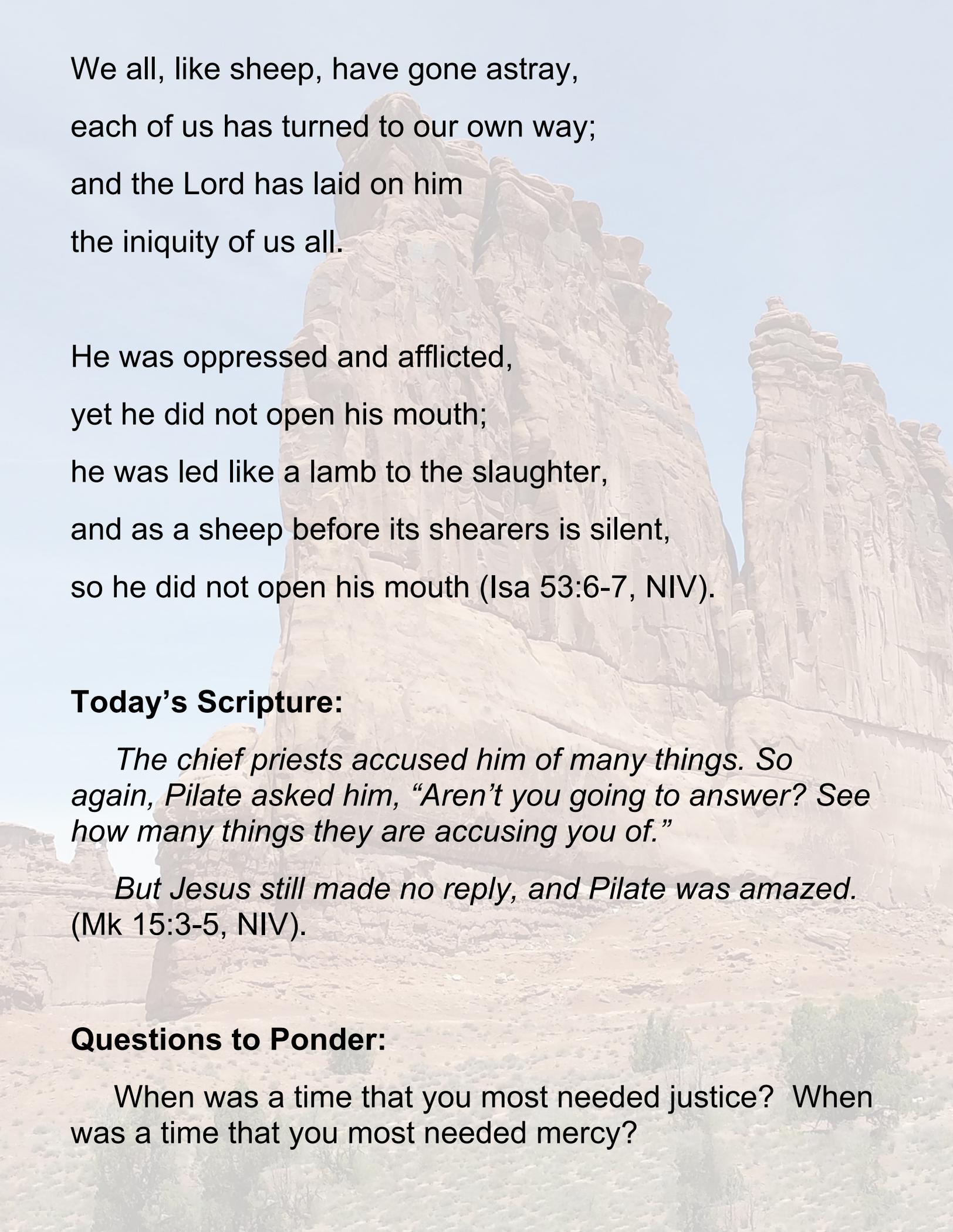
The Sanhedrin are accusing Jesus of “many things.” They complained to Pilate that Jesus was turning people against the Roman government; opposing payment of taxes; and making false claims about who he truly was (see Lk 23:2). The irony is that the religious elite were the ones who were guilty of those charges.

So, why wouldn't Jesus defend himself? Are we not as perplexed as Pilate?

Here is the place that justice and grace meet face to face. Illustrating how low humanity can go, the cruel, pompous, religious rulers have shattered the very precepts of God's law. At the opposite end, stands Jesus, the peaceful prophet, the suffering servant, the True Human—like which God, the Creator intended us to be.

In not answering Pilate, Jesus did answer. He says through his silence in essence “I will accept the guilt, and I will do so with dignity and with love.” He would not grovel or plead. He did not return insult for insult. He stood in the center of the will of God the Father.

And we have to wonder, all things being Passover, if Jesus' silence did not, for at least one brief moment, draw his persecutor's hearts and minds to the prophecy of Isaiah? If it did not theirs, it should ours.



We all, like sheep, have gone astray,  
each of us has turned to our own way;  
and the Lord has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed and afflicted,  
yet he did not open his mouth;  
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,  
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth (Isa 53:6-7, NIV).

### **Today's Scripture:**

*The chief priests accused him of many things. So again, Pilate asked him, "Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of."*

*But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.*  
(Mk 15:3-5, NIV).

### **Questions to Ponder:**

When was a time that you most needed justice? When was a time that you most needed mercy?

## Prayer:

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin (Ps 51:1-2, NIV).

**Practice:** Justice – to seek to help others through correcting and redressing wrongs. It treats others fairly and shows no favoritism. It is to love others by seeking their good, protection, gain and fair treatment.

Example include:

- Being a good steward of what you own
- Supporting just causes with time, action and financial support
- Volunteering through means that are available to you in ministries that serve the poor and oppressed
- Treating others impartially and fairly

(Adapted from *The Spiritual Discipline Handbook*, Adele Ahlberg Calhoun/Justice)