



Read: Not only passersby but the religious elite mock Jesus, throwing his own claims back in his face. Read [Matthew 27:41-43](#) and listen to the shouts and taunts thrown in Jesus' face, even as he hangs helpless.

What does it mean to be precious and honored in someone's sight? [Read Isaiah 43:1-4](#) as you envision the wounds Jesus must feel in the face of such torment. See his face and hear his voice as you read it again, choosing a word, phrase or verse to sit with.

Think: Review the passage again and ponder the word or phrase that stands out to you. What do you see of God's nature in this? What do you see about his heart for people? For you? Turn this word or phrase over and over in your mind—gently, like a fragile treasure.

Pray: Ask the Holy Spirit to impart God's message for you from this passage. What is he inviting you to consider? To do? To know? Open your heart and ask him to write his love deeply within you.

Rest: Sit quietly with what you have heard or sensed or experienced. Let all other thoughts go, except the reality of God's presence here and now, with you. Let him love you. If it helps, play worship music in the background. If your mind gets distracted, gently whisper "I receive your love" or "I love you, Lord."

Around the Silent Sufferer surged the brutal slaughter and flung its showers of barbed sarcasm in His holy face. The Prisoner has become the sport of the executioners.

William Henry Bierderwolf