

A Tough Break

*He was wounded for our rebellious acts.
He was crushed for our sins.
He was punished so that we could have peace,
and we received healing from his wounds.*

(Isaiah 53:5 GOD'S WORD Translation)

Journal Entry: Sometimes doing the right thing sure has nasty consequences. Instead of going to the concert with my friends tonight, I had to stay home and do some extra chores to pay for something that really wasn't my fault. I mean, I never meant to break the window of my dad's car. The rock was meant to scare the neighbor's cat out of the flowers. Who knew it would bounce off the sidewalk and crack the window? "Accident or not, you threw the rock, you pay for the window," was all Dad said. 'Course, my friends gave me a hard time. They said I should have just lied and acted like I didn't know who did it. I thought about it, but the last time I did that, Dad found out and got so mad he really laid on the consequences. He said he doesn't expect me to be perfect — we all mess up — he just expects me to own up to my mistakes and to do what I can to fix them.

Well, doing that has kept me from going to the concert, but, believe it or not, I'm not all that mad about it. Maybe because I know I really am responsible for the broken window. Maybe because I've been thinking about all that Jesus went through. I mean, here was someone who didn't do anything wrong and yet had to pay the consequences that others deserved — and it wasn't just missing a concert. I hope that paying Dad back for the window can, in some small way, say thank you to Jesus for all He did for me.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank You for paying the eternal consequence of my sin so that I don't have to. Thank You too for Your love and forgiveness when my actions are less than honorable. Help me to take responsibility for them and not whine about what that might bring. Amen.



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