



Sermon Discussion Questions
December 17, 2023,

Advent - The Servant is Coming

AN OBEDIENT SERVANT TO OBEY

Isaiah 50:4-11



1. Opening Discussion Questions

- a. “We have nothing to fear but fear itself”, “Ask not what you can do for your country, ...”, “Four score and seven years ago ...”. Occasionally someone gives a speech that includes such a noteworthy phrase that the quotation becomes almost synonymous with the speaker. In your opinion, what is the greatest quote from a secular speech? Who was the greatest public speaker that you can recall having heard personally? What makes a person’s speech particularly noteworthy?
- b. If you have children in all likelihood you have had to deal with issues of obedience. What is your favorite (or perhaps least favorite) incidence of disobedience you had to deal with? How many times were you willing to repeat a command to ensure that it was obeyed? How important to you was your child’s attitude once they did obey?

2. Sermon Outline/Key Points

- a. The Lord's Servant Is Remarkable for His Speech and Obedience (Isaiah 50:4-5)
 - i. What He says is remarkable.
 - ii. His obedience is perfect.
- b. The Lord's Servant Will Be Rejected by People and Vindicated by God (Isaiah 50:6-9)
 - i. The Servant will be rejected for speaking God's word.
 - ii. The Servant was vindicated by God at the Resurrection.
- c. Will You Obey the Lord's Servant or Yourself? (Isaiah 50:10-11)
 - i. While most reject Him, blessing lies in obedience to the Lord's servant.
 - ii. How will you more fully trust and obey the Lord in 2024?

3. Study/Discussion Points:

- a. *Sunday Afternoon* – As soon as possible after listening to the sermon set aside some time to prayerfully ponder these questions:
 - i. What one thing most stood out to you in this sermon?
 - ii. What new truth did you learn or of what truth were you reminded?
 - iii. After listening to the sermon, is there a Scripture passage you feel led to meditate on or commit to memory this week?
 - iv. What is one specific thing you feel God is leading you to do after hearing this message?

- v. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?
- b. **Monday** – *The Lord’s Servant is Remarkable for His speech (Isaiah 50:4-5)*
- i. Start by reading this third Servant Song, Isaiah 50:1-11, several times – from different translations if possible.
 - 1. How would you describe the tone of this passage?
 - 2. How would you summarize the message in just a sentence or two?
 - 3. What hope and expectation would Isaiah’s listeners have had upon hearing these words?
 - ii. What name is repeated four times in verses 4-9?
 - 1. What role/function does He play in the life of the Servant?
 - 2. How do John 7:16, 8:28, 12:49 and 14:10 show His importance in the life of the Servant while He was on earth?
 - iii. In verse 4 what does He give the Servant?
 - 1. Compare verse 4 with Deuteronomy 18:15 & 18, Isaiah 51:16 and Micah 4:2. Do these verses give you any additional insight into the Servant?
 - 2. Read Exodus 4:12 & 15–16, Number 23:5, Jerimiah 1:9, Matthew 10:19–20, Mark 13:11, and Luke 12:12. How should these verses help strengthen and encourage us as we share the Gospel?
- c. **Tuesday** – *The Lord’s Servant is Perfect in His Obedience (Isaiah 50:5).*
- i. Verse five shifts from emphasizing the Servants words to His obedience.
 - 1. How do you think obedience relates to “opened ears”?
 - 2. Read Psalm 40:6-8. According to these verses how are open ears important? What do “open ears” allow to happen in our lives?
 - ii. Paul tells us the importance of the Servant’s obedience in Romans 5:19.
 - 1. In your own words, describe why the Servant’s obedience is critically important to you.
 - 2. Philippians 2:6-8 beautifully describes the extent of the Servant’s obedience. Read and meditate on these words. How do you see humility and obedience being related?
 - iii. Read Matthew 26:39 & 26:53 and John 10:18.

1. How do these verses, along with Philippians 2:6-8, make it absolutely clear that the Servant's obedience was far more than just responding to situations He found Himself in? How does verse 6 of the focal passage reinforce this view?
2. What lesson should we learn from this example? Does this demonstration of obedience give new meaning to Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:39 and Luke 6:29?

d. Wednesday – The Lord's Servant Will Be Rejected by People (Isaiah 50:6-9)

- i. Matthew 27:30, Mark 14:65 & 15:19, Luke 22:63, and John 19:1, which describe how the Servant was abused physically, show the fulfillment of the prophecy given in verse 6.
 1. What does the passage tell us about how the Servant was able to endure such abuse without rebelling?
 2. In light of that, what would you conclude about Jesus' cry from the cross in Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34? When does it seem He suffered most?
 3. Hebrew's 13:5b tells us God will never leave us or forsake us. How do you see that promise relating to the Servant's obedience?
- ii. Physical suffering was only the end result of the rejection the Servant faced. Read these verses and consider how they show His rejection:
 1. Matthew 12:44
 2. Luke 4:24-29
 3. John 6:60-70
 4. John 7:14-20
 5. John 8:48-59
- iii. Considering these five passages, what most often caused His rejection: His actions or His speech? What does John 10:31-34 say?

e. Thursday – The Lord's Servant Will Be Vindicated by God (Isaiah 50:6-9)

- i. Before starting today's study, look up the definitions of "vindication" and "justification" and study the subtle, but important, distinction between the two. Why do you think it is okay to talk about God "vindicating" the Servant, but it would be wrong to say that God "justified" Him?
- ii. The NIV begins verse 7 "Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced." While the ESV says "But the Lord GOD helps me; therefore, I have not been disgraced". Which speaks most clearly and forcefully to you?
- iii. While we can never be "vindicated" Paul assures us we have been "justified through faith" (Romans 5:1) and then paraphrases Isaiah 50:7-9 in Romans 8:31-39. Read and compare the passage in Isaiah with that in Romans.

1. For us as Christians what is the ultimate result of the Servant's obedience?
 2. We read part on Tuesday, but now read all of the song/poem in Philippians 2:6-11. For the Servant, what is the result of His obedience?
- f. **Friday** – *Will You Obey the Lord's Servant or Yourself? (Isaiah 50:10-11).*
- i. Read Isaiah 50:10-11 carefully.
 1. What is it saying to you?
 2. Two groups – the only two groups there are – are described. Who are they? Which group are you in?
 3. Earlier in his book Isaiah provided a prophecy that we hear frequently at this time of year. Read Isaiah 9:2. How do you feel it relates to verses 10 & 11?
 - ii. We know that the Bible teaches that we are saved by grace through faith and not by our own works.
 1. What does it sound like those in verse 11 are trying to do?
 2. How do John 14:6 and Acts 4:12 relate to these verses?
- g. **Saturday** – *How Will You More Fully Trust and Obey the Lord in 2024?*
- i. How you will trust and obey is something you must answer for yourself. Spend time today praying about what God would want you to do in 2024?
 - ii. As you consider the coming year consider how these three quotes might bear on the decisions you make:
 1. “You can only learn what obedience is by obeying” Dietrich Bonhoeffer
 2. “One act of obedience is better than one hundred sermons” – Dietrich Bonhoeffer
 3. “Obedience is your responsibility; the outcome is God's” – Steven Furtick
4. **Application:** Lake Ridge Baptist Church has developed a Spiritual Growth Assessment and Personal Growth Plan. If you haven't taken the assessment and completed the Plan it might be a useful tool as you consider 2024. Copies can be obtained from the office. And if you are really serious, sign up for the next “Grow Deep” session which will be starting on January 22nd.

5. Prayer Points:

- a. **A**doration – 1 Peter 4:16
- b. **C**onfession – James 5:16
- c. **T**hanksgiving – 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- d. **S**upplications – James 4:2-3