



Sermon Discussion Questions  
December 24, 2023,  
*Advent - The Servant is Coming*  
**OUR SUFFERING REDEEMER**  
Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12



## 1. Opening Discussion Questions

Because we will all be commemorating the birth of our Savior and celebrating Christmas with family and friends, we will forgo the normal opening discussion questions. Instead, make time to sit with family, friends, or your Thrive group, and discuss the true meaning of this overly commercialized holiday.

## 2. Sermon Outline/Key Points

- a. The Lord's Servant Will Suffer Terribly
  - i. The Lord's Servant will accomplish His purpose by suffering.
  - ii. Jesus clearly fulfills the suffering of the Servant.
- b. Jesus Came and Suffered to Redeem Us
  - i. The Servant's suffering was God's will to save His People.
  - ii. The redemption is freely offered to everyone who believes in Jesus.
- c. Worship the Servant this Christmas!

## 3. Study/Discussion Points:

- a. **Sunday Afternoon** – As you prepare for your Christmas Eve activities, which hopefully will include attending a Christmas Eve worship service, think carefully about the message delivered this morning. Jesus came not so that we might have a holiday in December, but He came to die that we might have the most undeserved gift of all – forgiveness.
- b. **Monday** – *Worship the Servant this Christmas!*  
During all of your family traditions and the events you have planned for this Christmas Day set aside time to truly worship our Savior.
- c. **Tuesday** – *The Lord's Servant Will Suffer Terribly to Accomplish His Purpose*
  - i. Start this session by reading and meditating on Isaiah 52:13-15. Without relying on any outside helps, what do these verses say to you?
  - ii. Reread the passages from last Wednesday to see how the New Testament describes Jesus' treatment prior to His crucifixion: Matthew 27:28-30, Mark 14:65 & 15:19, Luke 22:63, and John 19:1-3. Do you think Isaiah 52:14 has been fulfilled?
  - iii. What do you think "sprinkle" means in verse 15. Consider Exodus 29:21, Leviticus 8:11& 30, 14:7, Numbers 8:7, 19:18-19, and especially Revelation 5:9
- d. **Wednesday** – *Jesus clearly fulfills the suffering of the Servant.*
  - i. Read and meditate on Isaiah 53:1-3. Again, without using outside helps, what do these verses mean to you? According to these verses how would people respond to God's Servant when He came among them? According to John 1:11 how was He received?
  - ii. We have all seen pictures of what someone thinks Jesus looked like. What does His description in 53:2b suggest about the accuracy of such pictures? If we are not attracted to Jesus by His physical attributes what should attract us? Read John 1:9-14. What is the connection between these passages? What is necessary to see the true "glory" of Jesus?

- iii. “Esteemed” may not be a word you use frequently. Look up it’s meaning. Do you think Jesus is “esteemed” today? Does the way you live show that He is esteemed by you?

e. **Thursday** – *It was God’s will that Jesus come and suffer to save His people.*

- i. Read and meditate on Isaiah 53:4-6. Verse 3, that you read yesterday, says the Servant was “a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.” What afflictions, suffering, and grief are identified in verses 4-6? Do you see a common relationship between them?
- ii. If you are reading the ESV you will notice “esteemed” again in verse 4b. What does 4b tell us the general reaction to Jesus’ suffering will be? What is your reaction?
- iii. The first phrase of verse 4 is translated somewhat differently in the various versions. It may refer to grief and sorrows (ESV), pain and suffering (NIV), sickness and pain (CSB) or even weakness and sorrows (NLT). Beyond bearing your sins on the cross what has Jesus born/carried for you?

f. **Friday** – *Redemption is freely offered to everyone who believes in Jesus.*

- i. Read and mediate on Isaiah 53:7-9. What do you find most moving about these three verses? How did the Servant conduct Himself during His suffering? According to just these three verses what was the end result?
- ii. When scripture repeats something, it generally means we should pay attention to the words. What does verse 7 say twice? Compare verse 7 to John 19:8-10 and also to Matthew 26:52-54. In your opinion what does Jesus’ silence show us?
- iii. Read Romans 3:25-26 (in several translations if possible). What does this passage in Romans tell us about the importance of what Isaiah prophesied in verses 7-9?

g. **Saturday** – *Worship the Servant this Christmas and throughout 2024*

- i. Finally, read and mediate on Isaiah 53:10-12 (reading in at least two translations may help). What is the most shocking statement in these verses? According to verse 10 what is the ultimate reason for the Servant’s suffering?
- ii. Read Hebrews 12:2b. What was Jesus’ attitude about the cross? What was the ultimate outcome? How does Isaiah 53:11-12 show the same outcome? How does Romans 8:34 describe the importance of the outcome to us today?
- iii. Verse 12 starts with a “therefore” making it particularly important. How does verse 12 help you better understand the entire Suffering Servant passage (Isaiah 52:13-53:12)? What phrase of the verse has particular relevance to you (see 1 Peter 2:24-25)?

4. **Application:** Isaiah 52:13-53:12 is an extremely powerful depiction of what Christ would do – in fact has done – for us. It is a gift far beyond anything we could imagine. As you exchange gifts and partake in whatever customs you observe at Christmas be careful to not lose sight of that amazing truth. At the same time, remember the gift was only possible because Jesus was absolutely obedient to His Father. We are commanded to be like Jesus – to be obedient and take up our cross daily (Luke 9:23). Certainly, this includes sharing this greatest of gifts with those who have not yet received it.

## 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

**Merry Christmas**