

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## *Advent Series*

These questions are for the **December 13, 2020** sermon, "Songs of the Servant, Part 3." Please read the sermon passage (Isaiah 50:4-11) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline

AS WE FOCUS UPON THE MESSIAH, THE SERVANT OF THE LORD, NOTE . . .

1. The teachings needed to be obeyed. (4-6)
  - a. The ones who are disciplined have a clear message on their tongues about Messiah.
  - b. The Messiah's ears are tuned to the LORD God.
    - i. He listens to every word from the LORD God.
    - ii. He understands and obeys every word.
  - c. He fulfills these prophecies fully and perfectly:
    - i. He "gave his back" to those who would beat him. (Matt 20:19)
    - ii. His beard would be plucked out; he would be spit upon. (Matt 26:67)
2. The trials needing to be endured. (7-9)
  - a. When everything seems to have gone wrong, consider the nearness of the LORD.
  - b. "But the Lord" (is near, v. 7), leads us to "Behold the Lord" (focus on, v. 9).
  - c. The Lord has a role in the suffering of Messiah: He comes near and helps him (and us).
3. The trust needing to be given. (10-11)
  - a. We are called to trust him even now in our own suffering and trials.
  - b. Our faith in the LORD will "punch holes in the darkness" so that others can see him.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: The Servant (Messiah) understood every word of prophecy and how it applied to him. He was called to a mission of suffering and sacrifice, from which he did not hold back. Think about the moment when Jesus understood his earthly mission. How old might he have been? How he had "ears" 'to fully understand what would happen. How he set his face "like a flint" to do it. For the glory of God and love of his people. Discuss this.
2. Based on #1, above: 800 years prior to Jesus' birth, Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would be scourged, have his beard plucked out and be disgraced, with his accusers spitting upon him. Are you amazed by the accuracy of these prophecies? Do you see why New Testament authors were careful to point out these details? Do you think the typical unbeliever today is won over by the fulfillment of these prophecies? Why or why not?
3. Based on #2, above: The Servant realizes that the mission requires suffering, and he fully embraces it. He's told us that our "following after him" (discipleship) will also require suffering and rejection. Do you fully embrace the suffering and rejection that comes along with absolute commitment to the LORD God? How are you helped (comforted) by beholding God? (v.9)
4. Based on #3, above: So many of our friends stumble in the darkness. Respond to this directive: "One of the greatest things you can do for your friends is maintaining and displaying genuine faith in the LORD God when your life and circumstances seem darkest." How does this faith "punch holes in the darkness"?