**The Servant of the Lord**

**The Word**

Read together Isaiah 52:13-53:12

**Questions for Discussion**

1. The main goal of this series is to increase our understanding of and appreciation for who Jesus is. How did Sunday’s message increase your appreciation for Jesus?

2. What was the most helpful insight for you regarding the Servant of the Lord in Isaiah?

3. On Sunday we considered the full humanity of Jesus as we considered what it might have been like for him to come to a growing sense of his vocation as a boy/young man as well as considering what it was like for him to wrestle with God in the garden. How do you react to those very human portraits of Jesus?

4. Sunday's passage gets to the very heart of the gospel: Jesus suffers and dies in our place so that we can experience forgiveness and freedom with God. How do you respond to that basic message at this time in your life? For example, does that message feel old? Is it hard for you to truly connect with that truth? Do you experience it in a fresh way? Do you see it in a new light?

**Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline**

I. Context

A. Isaiah lived in the 8th century BC during a time of sin and waywardness among God’s people.

B. He prophesies God’s judgment of the people via exile and then God’s future restoration of his people through bringing them back to the land and bringing about spiritual revival

II. The Servant Songs of Isaiah

A. In Isaiah 40-53 a mysterious figure emerges called “the servant of the Lord.” There are four “servant poems” in these chapters that provide a portrait of this individual

1. The first poem (42:1-7) portrays him as God’s chosen one, filled with the Spirit to bring justice to the nations through his quiet and confident ministry

2. The second poem (49:1-6) introduces an element of conflict the servant will have with God’s people

 3. The third poem (50:4-9) intensifies that conflict

4. The fourth poem (52:13-53:12) demonstrates how the suffering of the servant will bring about the redemption of God’s people

 B. The fourth Servant Poem (52:13-53:12)

1. The servant will be exalted and raised up (v. 13)

2. He will be disfigured such that people will turn their faces from him (v. 14, v. 3)

3. He will know grief and rejection (v. 3)

4. He will suffer not for his own sins but for the sake of the people’s sins, and through his suffering the people will be healed and redeemed (v. 4-6)

5. He will submit himself to this suffering and not retaliate or cry out (v. 7)

6. All of this will be part of God’s plan (v. 10)

7. His suffering will end in death (v. 9)

8. Yet beyond his death, he will be vindicated and satisfied because he will accomplish the redemption of the people (v. 11)

III. Jesus as the Servant of the Lord

A. Imagine what it must have been like for Jesus as a boy or young man to come to understand this role and identity as the suffering servant and to fully embrace that

 B. His ministry roughly follows the trajectory of the 4 servant songs of Isaiah

C. His final days parallel Isaiah 52-53 with startling accuracy

1. The foot-washing in the upper room where he reveals himself as the servant

2. Gethsemane where he wrestles with his role as the servant and faces the horrible task ahead of him

3. The trial and crucifixion where everything plays out like Isaiah’s servant

IV. The heart of the matter

A. In Jesus, we see the heart of a servant for his people

B. This is the very heart of the gospel

 = Our king has suffered in our place, as our substitute

 = He has paid our debt, served our sentence, born our punishment

 = We are forgiven, justified, declared not guilty by God

 See 2 Corinthians 5:21

C. In our own suffering, we have in Jesus a companion who understands suffering like no other