

SERMON DISCUSSION STARTERS

 **In Phil. 2:5-8, Paul cited the suffering Servant as an example of humble obedience.** Read Phil. 2:5-8 and notice Jesus' pattern.

- *You've learned about the humble obedience of the Servant in Isaiah 53 – will you follow in his steps? Will you humbly obey the Father?*
- *Is there something He wants you to do or be that you have been resisting? Perhaps you've excused away your disobedience by saying "It's too hard. It will involve too much pain. I don't think I can do it." Let the humble obedience of the Servant inspire you to follow his example.*

 **The suffering Servant also inspires righteous living and hope in the midst of suffering.** Read 1 Peter 2:18-25.

- *Jesus suffered patiently for doing good. He left us an example so that when we are wronged for trying to do right, when we suffer loss for being honest and working hard, when family and friends despise us for taking the right path in life, we have an example of patient suffering, and a source of hope – Jesus.*
- *Have you been discouraged in doing right because of the sufferings associated with it? Have you left the path of righteousness because it was too hard at work, or at home, or with friends? Today, Christ wants you to return to righteous living and hope in the midst of suffering.*

 **Finally, for the believer, the suffering Servant can inspire endurance in the life of faith (Heb. 12:1-4).** Read the passage and meditate on Jesus' endurance.

- *Continue to endure in the difficult life of faith. Continue to remain steadfast under trials and sufferings with a view to the joyous future set before you. Let Christ be an inspiration for you in the midst of your weariness and discouragement.*
- *Is there an area of your life that became hard and you forsook faith-filled living? Perhaps you should pray and ask the Lord to strengthen your faith and give you endurance. Perhaps you should meditate on the future joy set before you (2 Cor. 4:16-18). The suffering Servant is our inspiration!*