

Sermon Title: Hopefull: Of Servants and Suffering **Scripture:** 1 Peter 2:18-25; Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Date: March 23rd, 2025

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- 1. While our comments on this question must be brief, are there any aspects of the Bible or Christian faith that have been difficult for you to explain, justify, or defend? [Leader's Note: please share the list of topics since this can frame future messages and series]
- 2. Have you heard the criticism/critique of Judeo-Christian faith and the institution of slavery? What has your response been?
- 3. Why is it completely countercultural and revolutionary that the Bible addresses servants/slaves? How does this influence the so-called view of Christianity's approval of the institution of slavery?
- 4. Last week, we discussed the Christian response socially and politically. How does the command of 1 Peter 2:18, "not only to the good and gentle but also the unjust" give greater clarity to our response?
- 5. 1 Peter 2:19 uses the phrase, "gracious thing" twice. In what instances is it used and why are those circumstances "a gracious thing in the sight of God"?
- 6. How does Christ's example give you a motivation for submitting to authority?
- 7. Peter quotes from the fourth Servant Song of Isaiah (52:13-53:12) in verses 1 Peter 2:22-25. Let's read this passage together. How has Jesus left an example and how can we follow in His steps (1 Peter 2:21)?
- 8. Why is this prophecy and Jesus's fulfillment of it through His life necessary as we consider how we respond to unjust suffering or circumstances?
- 9. Jesus "bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness" (1 Peter 2:24). You have, by the power of Christ, the power to put all sin to death and live like Jesus. Are you willing to do so?
- 10. While this passage is focused upon servants and masters, what principles can we apply to our workplace from the instructions to Christian servants?