

## Communion Meditation – The Suffering Servant

Isaiah 52.13      Exalted      June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011

### Introduction

- Last week we focused upon the noun (*servant*) not the adjective (*suffering*)
- But today we begin where our text begins ~ with Christ's exaltation

### Hope Grows due to a Focus Upon the Future

- In coming weeks we will focus upon many aspects of Christ's suffering
  - Upon the fact that He was:
    - despised and rejected by society / abandoned by his followers
    - betrayed by a friend / tortured and executed by cruel soldiers
    - suffered the torments of hell while dying on the cross
  - But God (*through Isaiah*) wants us to see beyond all of that (*into JOY*)
    - Even the past tense of the suffering reflects this future focus
- **Read Scripture excerpts** on the exaltation of Christ
- **Heb 12.2** ~ "*for the joy that was set before Him*" Jesus "*endured the cross*"

### Prayer Restores Hope When it Grows Dim

- III: "*Unbroken*" ~ Louis Zamperini ~ Hope in escape, communication, stealing
  - **Prov 13.12** ~ "*Hope deferred makes the heart sick*"
- The hope of this future joy had dimmed by the night in Garden of Gethsemane
  - But because His hope had burned so low He prayed . . .
  - **Read Luke 22.41-45** ~ Jesus was in agony and sweat drops of blood
  - *But what did His disciples do in these same circumstances?*
    - **v45** ~ "*He found them sleeping from sorrow*"
    - Depression would have us try to sleep away our sorrows . . .
  - **But what did Jesus say to them?**
    - **v46** ~ "*Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation.*"
    - Jesus knows giving in to depression leads you into the arms of Satan
    - We cannot overcome it in our own strength or good habits
    - We must turn to God when we are at our weakest

**It was God's plan that Jesus endure what He did . . .**

**It was God's plan that Louis Zamperini endure what he did as a POW in Japan**

**It is God's plan that you endure what you are enduring right now . . .**

## Support texts for Isaiah 52.13 ~ Exaltation of the Suffering Servant

**Psalm 110.1** ~ The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

**Luke 22:69** ~ Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God."

**Acts 7:55** ~ But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God,

**Romans 8:34** ~ Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

**Ephesians 1:20** ~ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

**Colossians 3.1** ~ If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

**Hebrews 1:3** ~ who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

**Hebrews 8.1** ~ Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

**Hebrews 10:12** ~ But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,

**1 Peter 3:22** ~ who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

**Hebrews 12:2** ~ looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.