

Following Jesus the Servant
Isaiah 42:1-7; 49:5-7; 50:4-9; 52:13 – 53:12
Pastor Dave Bennett

Daily Bible Readings
February 9-15

Introduction: The path of least resistance vs. the path of Jesus
John 12:24-26; Mark 10:45

We believe that we have been sent into the world as Jesus was sent, not to be served, but to serve. This service is an expression of God's love in action. We believe that we are called to express God's special concern for the poor, the needy, the alien, and the oppressed. We have a particular responsibility to those in distress in our own towns and communities, as well as to fellow Christians in need.

Three images of the coming leader

Davidic King
Heavenly Son of Man
Servant of the Lord

Isaiah's prophecies of the Servant

(Isaiah 42:1-7; 49:5-7; 50:4-9; 52:13 – 53:12)

- A. Justice
(Isaiah 42:3,4; Amos 5:24)
- B. Compassion
(Isaiah 42:7; Mark 10:46-52)
- C. Gentleness and Humility
(Isaiah 42:2,3)
- D. Global mission
(Isaiah 42:1, 4,6; 49:6)
- E. Restoration and Salvation
(Isaiah 49:5,6)
- F. Rejection
(Isaiah 49:7; 50:6-9; Matthew 26:67; 27:30, Isaiah 52:13-53:12)
- G. Triumph and Vindication
(Isaiah 50:8,9; 53:11-13)

II. Jesus the Servant

(Philippians 2:3-11)

- A. His heart of compassion
- B. His heart for justice

III. Service as Participation in the Mission of Jesus

(Philippians 2:3-8; Luke 22:27; John 20:21, John 13:1-17)

Follow-Throughs

- Monday** **Amos 5:1-27**
What sins does God point out to the people of Israel, through the prophet Amos? What is the essence of what God wants from them (see verses 14,15,24)? What are some examples from our own day where more attention to justice is needed— locally, nationally, internationally?
- Tuesday** **Mark 1;40-45; 10:46-52**
In what ways do these stories illustrate the compassionate heart of Jesus? Ask the Lord to give you a tender heart toward the people you encounter today.
- Wednesday** **Mark 10:32-45**
In what ways did the path of service for Jesus lead to suffering? Why was this difficult for the disciples to understand? Are there any areas in which obedience to Jesus has exposed you, or could expose you, to suffering?
- Thursday** **John 12:20-36**
Meditate on each phrase of verse 26. Where is Jesus leading? Where is Jesus now at work? Are you willing to follow him there?

Warm-Ups

- Friday** **Galatians 5:16-26**
In what ways do the "acts of the sinful nature" express the attitude of "It's all about me?" In contrast, how does the "fruit of the Spirit" remind you of Jesus, whose goal was to please God the Father in every respect? Focus on keeping in step with the Holy Spirit today, looking for opportunities to express the character of Jesus.
- Saturday** **Galatians 6:1-5**
In what ways does love mean coming to someone else's assistance? In what ways does love mean letting someone shoulder his or her own responsibilities? Which kind of love are you being asked to express right now?
- Sunday** **Galatians 6:6-10**
Actions have consequences. What examples of this principle, both positive and negative, are given in these verses? Think about the coming week. What opportunities may you have to "do good?"