

Hope

(Inklings Advent Series – Part II)

12/6/2009

1. It is common to confuse hope and optimism. While they can make for a powerful combination, how are they different from each other?

2. When people don't have hope, they act differently. Describe this behavior as you have seen it in those who believe "the gods are against us".

3. What might the connection be between hope and faith? (see 1 Peter 1:3-9)

4. The prophet Isaiah spoke to a people who were going through some bad times and pointed to events yet to come. Read Isaiah 42:1-4 and see if you can figure out what he is describing.

5. Is there any verification that these verses can be directly applied to Jesus? Read Matt. 12:15-23 and see if you find any connection.

6. If Isaiah is pointing toward the coming of the Messiah, why would Pastor Steve say hope is not in Christmas (the coming of the Christ child), but in God?

7. Pastor Steve incorporated an extensive illustration of sailors stranded on a sunken submarine as he talked about hope. He said that Jesus came to heal, but not necessarily to rescue us. How does that fit into the scenario and into our own lives.

8. Read Isaiah 42:5-9 and see if you can figure out what role hope plays in our interaction with others.

9. How would life be different if we lived it as if we had great hope – a hope that reflected a strong faith?