

Small Group/Personal Reflection Questions

Isaiah 9.1-7

December 16, 2012

(Questions assume you've heard the sermon. (Sorry audio quality is not so great.)

1. Hope makes a huge difference. Think back to a time when you had great hope. What difference does a strong confidence of Hope make in how you face the day, pursue your calling, love people, respond to difficulties?
2. What are the challenges you have now or will have in the next month or two that you will need significant hope to meet?
3. What are your "go-to" practices to find hope? What usually results from them? Which are reasonably good, neutral or poor sources of hope?
4. God's undaunted Promise of Hope. Reflect on the 5 past tense promises in Isaiah 9.1-3.
 - a. Make sure you have a sense of what Israel, Judah are up against. Exile is another nation conquering you and either killing, subjugating, or removing you to their own country.
 - b. Try to get a personal sense for how strongly God is promising hope through controverting our usual use of grammatical tenses. This is God's heart at work for his people.
 - c. How are these five things that those threatened with exile will particularly need? How are they things you need?
5. Think about the details of how Mt 4.12-17 uses of 9.1-2.
 - a. What does John's arrest have to do with it?
 - b. Find a map in your bible or one line and compare Capernaum and Naphtali.
 - c. What is implied in v.14 phrase to introduced the quotation?
6. Reflect on the 4 titles in v.6 of Isaiah 9.
 - a. Which do you need Jesus to personally work in you most?
 - b. Which do you long Jesus to enable you to be more to others?
 - c. Which do you think Hillsborough and our world needs most?