

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Week 131

Isaiah Chapter 50:4-11

This is the 3rd Servant Song of Isaiah.

Outline

Isaiah 50:4	The Servant listened and learned
Isaiah 50:5-6	The Servant obediently endured suffering
Isaiah 50:7-9	The Servant confidently depended on God
Isaiah 50:10-11	The Challenge to follow the Servant's example

Verse-by-verse

Verses 10 & 11: Now the focus turns from the Servant of the Lord to Isaiah's audience. Each individual Israelite must decide for himself whether he will follow the example of the Servant or go his own way.

Verse 10: Notice the change in pronouns here. Verses 4-9 have the pronouns "Me" and "My". But here in verses 10-11 the pronouns change to "you" and "your" (also "he" and "him"). This indicates a change in subject, from the Servant to the people.

Verse 10 describes a person who fears the Lord and obeys the voice of His Servant. Nevertheless, he walks in darkness and has no light. Since he hears the voice of the Lord's Servant, the missing light here cannot be the word of God; the darkness here in verse 10 is not the lack of the word of God.

In fact, the person in verse 10 follows the example of the Servant in verses 4-9. He listens to the Lord God (as in verse 4), obeys the Lord (as in verse 5), and trusts in the Lord God (as in verses 7-9).

So, the darkness is akin to what the Servant experiences in verse 6: suffering, oppression, and injustice. And the light represents deliverance and vindication (verses 7-8). See also the context in **Isaiah 51:4-5**.

The Lord commands this obedient one to trust in the name of the Lord and rely on His God. And indeed this is the same thing that the Servant does in verses 7-9.

Verse 11: Unfortunately, many refuse to listen to the Lord, refuse to obey Him, and refuse to trust in Him. They decide to take matters into their own hands.

The Lord is absent in the first four lines of verse 11. He is replaced by the machinations of the disobedient. The fire, the light here, is not the Lord's light or the Lord's fire.

Instead, these people kindle their own fire. Rather than worship the Lord, they light a fire under the altar of idols. It is the evil man's fire. The Lord called the fire that Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu brought to the temple "strange fire". They violated the holiness of the Lord and paid the ultimate price. (**Leviticus 10:1-3**).

The Lord is Holy, **Isaiah 6:3**. He expresses His holiness with fire, **Exodus 24:17**; **Deuteronomy 4:23-24**.

Rather than wait on the Lord's justice and righteousness, these rebellious people walked in the light of their own fire. They sought their own vindication. They tried in vain to deliver themselves.

The Lord will kindle a righteous fire which will bring vengeance on His enemies. At the same time, He will dispense justice, deliverance, and glory to His people: the remnant in verse 10. See **Isaiah 26:11-12**.

Those who rely on their own light and their own fire will lie down in sorrow and anguish, and this also at the hand of the Lord. **See Isaiah 33:14**.

Men and women today face the same choice. Will they take God at His word that Jesus Christ completed the work of their redemption with His death on the cross? Will they accept that justification is a gift from God by faith not by works? See **Romans 3:21-28; 4:1-5; Ephesians 2:8-9**.

OR will they rely on their efforts to achieve their own righteousness? **Romans 10:3, Philippians 3:9**.