

Thursday Evening Bible Study  
**Series: The Book of Isaiah**

Teaching Summary for Week 132

**Isaiah Chapter 50:4-11**

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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
<b>Isaiah 50:10-11</b>	<b>The Challenge to follow the Servant's example</b>

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:** Verse 10 describes a person who fears the Lord and obeys the voice of His Servant. He follows the example of the Servant in verses 4-9. The Lord commands this obedient one to trust in the name of the Lord and rely on His God.

**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**; **2 Thessalonians 1:6-10**.

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**.

## **Application:**

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 3:21-30; 4:1-13; Ephesians 2:8-9**.

Or will they rely on their own efforts to achieve their own idea of salvation ( i.e.; perfection, holiness, immortality, success, pleasure)?

Let's examine some additional scriptures. **Romans 9:30-10:12; Philippians 3:9. 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; 1 Corinthians 10:20; Colossians 2:8, 16-23; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10.**

### Questions for discussion:

1. For each passage, identify the “strange fire” – what the unbeliever is doing to achieve “salvation”.
2. Are there any differences between Jewish and Gentile unbelievers in this regard? If so, describe.
3. In particular, do the Jews pursue righteousness? How about the Gentiles? What do they seek?
4. Is there any difference between Jew and Greek when it comes to being justified by God?
5. The right choice is always faith in Christ. What are some of the wrong choices?