

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Week 129

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

Let's read the passage: **Isaiah 50:4-11**.

Last time, we saw that this passage refers to the Servant of the Lord, the Lord Jesus Christ, rather than to Isaiah or the nation of Israel.

Tonight, we will proceed with our verse by verse study of this passage.

Verse-by-verse

Verse 4: The servant has the *tongue* of disciples because he *listens* as a disciple.

We saw that the expression “morning by morning” is used in the Bible to refer to a daily practice, typically done in obedience to the Lord.

“Sustaining the weary one with a word”. What does it mean to sustain a weary or tired person? It means to refresh or revive them. It means to nourish them. It means to give them new strength. It means to give them rest. It means to bear their burdens.

Psalm 68:19. Isaiah 40:28-31. Jeremiah 31:23-26; Matt 11:28-30.

Notice how the Servant sustains the weary one. He sustains him with **a word**. This means to speak a word in season: *the right word for the right situation*.

What are words that revive and sustain the tired ones? What words give strength and rest? What words raise the spirits of men, and preserve them under hardships? Give them perseverance?

Psalm 119:25, 28, 103, 107, 116, 154; John 6:63, 68; Hebrews 4:11-12; Revelation 3:10.

What words are nourishing? Daily food is sustenance. It is necessary for the body. Yet the word of God is more necessary than our daily food. **Deuteronomy 8:3; Job 23:12; Matthew 4:4.**

Verse 5: “open my ears” is a sign of *obedience*. **Psalm 40:6-8.**

Jesus instructs His disciples about the relationship between love for Him and obedience to Him in **John 14:15**. He set the standard with His obedience to His Father. **John 15:10**.

Verses 6 & 7: We studied these verses and saw that they must refer to the Lord Jesus Christ. He listened to the voice of His Father, and was obedient to the will of the Father, even when it involved suffering.

Verse 7: The Lord God helps Me, **Isaiah 49:8**. I am not disgraced, **Isaiah 45:17; 54:4**. (speaking of Israel)

I shall not be moved, **Psalms 62:1-2, 5-8**.

Verses 8-9: Notice the parallelism:

Vindicates Me - → Who will contend with Me?
The Lord God helps Me - → Who is he who condemns me?

What is true about Jesus (the Servant) will one day also be true about Israel. **Isaiah 54:17**.

The Father vindicated His Servant by *raising Him from the dead*: **Acts 2:24-28; 13:30-35; Philippians 2:5-11; Ephesians 1:19-23**.

Other scriptures, including application to us: **Romans 8:33-34; Psalm 2:7-9** [note how vv 10-12 line up with Isaiah 50:10-11]; **16:8-11** [quoted in Acts 2:25-28]; **37:1-11; 110:1-7**.

“let’s stand up to each other”: **Isaiah 41:1; 43:25-26**.

The Lord God helps me. This will come to pass for Israel as well, **Isaiah 41:10**.

Wear out like a garment, the moth will eat them: **Isaiah 51:6-8**.

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 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 the Servant does in verse 4), he obeys the Lord (as in verse 5), and he trusts in the Lord God (as in verses 7-9).

Therefore, 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, 13-16**.

So the Lord commands this obedient one to trust in the name of the Lord and rely on His God. And indeed this is what 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.

Notice: the Lord is completely absent in verse 11. He is replaced by the machinations of the disobedient. The fire here, 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.

Rather than wait on the Lord's justice and righteousness, they walk in the light of their own fire. They seek their own vindication. They work to establish their own righteousness (**Romans 10:3**). They try in vain to deliver themselves.

The Lord will kindle a fire which will bring vengeance on the enemies of His people, and justice, deliverance, and glory to His people: the believing remnant depicted in verse 10.

See **Jeremiah 23:25-40**, where Jeremiah sets the Lord's fire – His word - against the strange fire of the false prophets.

But 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.