In Search of the Servant of God (Isa 50)

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- We have learned that His words were a twoedged sword, bringing needed pain <u>to the</u> <u>mighty and arrogant</u>. (Isa 49:2)

 He also has <u>the wisdom and gentleness</u> to speak powerful words of encouragement to the weak, rejected and those near spiritual death! (Isa 42:2-3)

 Isaiah 42:2-3 - He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, Nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. 3 A bruised reed <u>He will not break</u>, And smoking flax <u>He will not quench</u>; He will bring forth justice for truth.

- Where did this Servant *obtain such wisdom*?
- As both God and man Jesus did go <u>through a</u> <u>learning curve</u>! (Lk 2:52)

Luke 2:52 - And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

 Both His disciples and enemies <u>asked this</u> <u>very question</u>! (Jn 7:15)

 John 7:15 - And the Jews marveled, saying, "How does this Man know letters, having never studied?"

 Jesus gives us the answer and <u>urges us to</u> <u>follow Him</u>! (Jn 7:16-18)

• John 7:16-18 - Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. 17 "If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.

 18 "He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the <u>One who sent Him</u> is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him.

The Servant had <u>the tongue of the learned</u>. (Isa 50:4)

 Isaiah 50:4 - "The Lord GOD has given Me <u>The tongue of the learned</u>, That I should know <u>how to speak A word in season</u> to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear <u>To hear as the learned</u>.

 He <u>awed</u> those who studied greatly. (Mt 13:54; Lk 2:46-47)

 Matthew 13:54 - When He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works?

 The servant's <u>tongue was powerful</u>! (Isa 49:2; Rev 1:16; Heb 4:12-13)

 <u>Revelation 1:16</u> - He had in His right hand seven stars, <u>out of His mouth went a sharp</u> <u>two-edged sword</u>, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

 Those who debated Him had their hearts exposed and their arguments shown to be foolish. If God's truth was the goal, then why stop asking? They closed their ears to this Servant! (Mt 22:46; Mk 12:34; Lk 20:39-40; Mt 13:15)

 Matthew 22:46 - And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

 Mark 12:34 - Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." But <u>after that no</u> one dared question Him.

- He knew <u>how to preserve</u> those who were weary. (Isa 42:2-3)
- Powerful men <u>tend to crush or dismiss the</u> <u>weak</u>, Jesus knew what to say!
- Our Lord wants us to know <u>His wisdom awaits</u> <u>us</u>! (Mt 11:28-29)

- How does one <u>sustain their strength and</u> <u>wisdom</u> in doing God's work <u>over time</u>?
- This Servant <u>had an ear that listened</u> to God in complete trust! (Isa 50:4-5)

 Isaiah 50:4-5 - " The Lord GOD has given Me The tongue of the learned, That I should know how to speak A word in season to him who is weary. <u>He awakens Me</u> morning by morning, He awakens My ear To hear as the learned. 5 The Lord GOD has opened My ear; And I was not rebellious, Nor did I turn away.

 "Morning by Morning" he prayed and listened to the Father. (Jn 8:28-29)

• John 8:28-29 - Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. 29 "And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."

 It is <u>a very risky thing</u> to completely open your heart (ear) to another. This is <u>how we will be</u> <u>able to identify</u> this servant! (Mt 26:39)

 Matthew 26:39 - He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

 Other prophecies speak of the opened ears of the Messiah! (Ps 40:6-8)

 Psalm 40:6-8 - Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened. Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require. 7 Then I said, "Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me. 8 I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart."

If we would just truly listen, God will bless us!
 (Psa 119:99; 1 Thess 2:13)

 Psalm 119:99 - I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your <u>testimonies are</u> my meditation.

- Why do we become weary and are tempted to quit? <u>Are we really listening</u>?
- Satan appeals to <u>emotion over principle</u>!
 (Prov 18:13; Acts 25:16)

 Proverbs 18:13 - He who answers a matter before he hears it, It is folly and shame to him.

• Acts 25:16 - To them I answered, 'It is not the custom of the Romans to deliver any man to destruction before the accused meets the accusers face to face, and has opportunity to answer for himself concerning the charge against him.'

 When we stop hearing and thinking then we will <u>become pawns of Satan</u>! (Acts 17:5, 11)

 Acts 17:5 - But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.

 <u>Acts 17:11</u> - These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

 The spiritually "deaf" will only "stand" after they have <u>weighed the consequences</u> rather than weighing the truth. (Mt 21:25-27) (Ex. Man on cliff)

• Matthew 21:25-27 - "The baptism of John -where was it from? From heaven or from men?" And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' 26 "But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet."

 27 So they answered Jesus and said, "<u>We do</u> <u>not know</u>." And He said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

 Isaiah 50:6-7 - I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting. 7 " For the Lord <u>GOD will help Me; Therefore I will not be</u> disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.

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- The mission God gave Him <u>placed Him in</u> <u>harm's way</u>.
- He was publicly <u>scourged</u>, <u>placed with</u> <u>criminals and spit upon</u>. (Mt 26:67)

 Matthew 26:67 - Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands,

 Why do men <u>try to shame the innocent</u>? (Jn 9:22, 33-34; 12:42-43)

 John 9:22 - His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue.

 John 9:33-34 - "If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing." 34 They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out.

 John 12:42-43 - Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

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- He had <u>a face like flint</u>. (Ezk 3:8-9)

• Ezekiel 3:8-9 - Behold, I have made your face strong against their faces, and your forehead strong against their foreheads. 9 Like adamant stone, harder than flint, I have made your forehead; do not be afraid of them, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they are a rebellious house."

 How many have tried to <u>make us ashamed</u> of what is right?

- How many have tried to <u>make us ashamed</u> of what is right?
- Can we <u>see what the disciples saw</u>? (Lk 9:51-53; Jn 11:16)

• Luke 9:51-53 - Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, 52 and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. 53 But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem.

 John 11:16 - Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, <u>that we may die with Him</u>."

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- His strength came in <u>knowing God was with</u> <u>Him</u>. (Psa 22:3-5)

 Psalm 22:3-5 - But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel. 4 Our fathers trusted in You; They trusted, and You delivered them.
 5 They cried to You, and were delivered; They trusted in You, and were not ashamed.

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- There is great power in <u>knowing</u> you are living the will of God.
- Unbelievers will see this and <u>ask questions</u>.
 (1 Pt 2:11-12)

 <u>1 Peter 2:12</u> - having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works <u>which they observe</u>, glorify God in the day of visitation.

 May we never be ashamed of <u>God's truth nor</u> of <u>His people</u>! (Rom 1:16; 2 Tim 1:8)

 <u>Romans 1:16</u> - For <u>I am not ashamed</u> of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

 <u>2 Timothy 1:8</u> - Therefore <u>do not be ashamed</u> of the testimony of our Lord, <u>nor of me His</u> <u>prisoner</u>, but <u>share with me in the sufferings</u> for the gospel according to the power of God,

 The Servant knows that God is near and <u>will</u> defeat all enemies! (Isa 50:8)

 Isaiah 50:8 - He is near who justifies Me; Who will contend with Me? Let <u>us stand</u> together. Who is My adversary? <u>Let him come</u> near Me.

Listen to <u>other promises of the Messiah</u>.
 (Psa 34:18-22)

 Psalm 34:22 - The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.

 Consider the song "Be with me Lord" and <u>what God does</u>. (1 Pt 3:12-13)

 Those that fight God will fail. Consider the <u>3</u> <u>questions asked</u>! (Isa 50:8-9)

• Isaiah 50:8-9 - He is near who justifies Me; Who will contend with Me? Let us stand together. Who is My adversary? Let him come near Me. 9 Surely the Lord GOD will help Me; Who is he who will condemn Me? Indeed they will all grow old like a garment; The moth will eat them up.

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• Psalm 102:25-27 - Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. 26 They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, And they will be changed. 27 But You are the same, And Your years will have no end.

 Do not <u>fight God or His people</u>. God will defeat all! (Rom 8:31)

 Romans 8:31 - What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

• Isaiah 50:10-11 - "Who among you fears the LORD? Who obeys the voice of His Servant? Who walks in darkness And has no light? Let him trust in the name of the LORD And rely upon his God. 11 Look, all you who kindle a fire, Who encircle yourselves with sparks: Walk in the light of your fire and in the sparks you have kindled—This you shall have from My hand: You shall lie down in torment.

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 If you can be absolutely honest with yourself, then <u>this Servant will help you</u>.

- If you can be absolutely honest with yourself, then <u>this Servant will help you</u>.
- The fear of the Lord can <u>open your heart (ear)</u> to another path. (Prov 1:7)

 Proverbs 1:7 - The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

 Obeying His voice will allow you to walk in wisdom and do <u>His great work of building</u> men.

The wicked provide their own "light."
 (Isa 50:11)

 Isaiah 50:11 - Look, all you who kindle a fire, Who encircle yourselves with sparks: Walk in the light of your fire and in the sparks you have kindled -- This you shall have from My hand: You shall lie down in torment.

 "In times of darkness and calamity, instead of trusting in God they would confide in their own resources, and endeavor to kindle a light for themselves in which they might walk. But the result would be, that they would find no comfort, and would ultimately under his hand lie down in sorrow."

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- How many brethren are feeding on the books of men and <u>neglecting honest Bible study</u>? Will the world applaud a real disciple?
- The "sparks" of men <u>are temporary</u> and will turn the hearts of the shallow.

 What is the only light that can <u>prepare us to</u> <u>meet God</u>? (Jn 3:19-21)

 John 3:21 - "But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

 God will never let those who trust Him <u>be put</u> to shame. (Joel 2:26-27)

 Joel 2:26-27 - You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, And praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; And My people shall never be put to shame. 27 Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: I am the LORD your God And there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame.