

Scripture Text

Isaiah 50:4-51-8

Context

Despite being God's covenantal people, Israel had sinned greatly against the Lord. Thus, they were sent away into exile. However, God is ever merciful and gracious to his people. He is willing to redeem them even though they are undeserving. This leads to our sermon text where God reveals more about the obedient Servant of the Lord who will obtain everlasting salvation for all who will trust in the name of the Lord.

Observation and Meaning

- What can we learn about the Servant from 50:4-5?
- Why is the Servant not afraid of being abused and disgraced by people? 50:6-9
- Who is this Servant that has been described in 50:4-9?
- Why should one trust in the name of the Lord? 50:10-11
- What is the result of trusting in other things besides the name of the Lord? 50:11
- How is God's work in the past meant to be a form of comfort to his people? 51:1-2
- Why should we pay attention to the Lord? 51:1-8

Big Idea

God has promised to send a perfectly obedient servant who will be committed to save God's people from sin and death. Those who trust in the Lord and listen to his teaching will receive everlasting salvation and not be put to shame.

Connecting to Bible Storyline

God is righteous and will not let the sins of his people go unpunished. However, he is gracious and merciful to his people and has raised his obedient servant to suffer in their place so that they can be redeemed. This servant is none other than Jesus Christ. All who listen to God's teaching about his servant Jesus Christ will not be put to shame. They will receive everlasting salvation.

Applications

- How have I been impacted by the description of the Lord's Servant?
- What keeps me from heeding the exhortation in 50:10 to trust in the Lord?
- How can I grow in sharing the Servant's confidence in the Lord to be my vindicator and rewarder as I seek to live for God's glory?

Guide for Study Leaders

Use the C.O.M.A. (Context, Observation, Meaning, Application) method to work through the biblical text.

Context

Pay attention to the surrounding verses, paragraphs, chapters, events, etc. to see how this passage fits within the context of this particular book of the Bible.

Note how this passage fits within the larger storyline of the whole Bible, i.e. how God is saving a people through Jesus Christ to live under his rule in his place.

Observation & Meaning

Make careful observations of the biblical text. Notice details such as linking words (eg. "for", "if", "therefore"), repetition, dialogue, narrative, OT quotations, etc.

To understand the meaning of the biblical text, we need to discern the author's purpose or intent: Why is the biblical author writing this?

Helpful questions to ask include:

Who is writing and to whom?
What is the situation of the author and of the readers?
Are we made aware of any problems that need to be addressed?
Are there any repeated themes, or a single idea that holds everything together?

Application

Apply God's word to the heart. Move beyond merely addressing circumstances and behaviour by asking good "heart" questions. For example: Why do we do what we do? What do we really desire?

Always connect the gospel to application. For example, what difference does knowing Christ make to our obedience to God?

Ask what the passage teaches us about God, ourselves, salvation in Christ, the church, the world, etc.