

23-50-01-The Jesus Pattern

submission, attentiveness, encouragement, suffering, Jesus

Isa 50:4-6

Christian are called to follow the pattern of Christ's own earthly life.

INTRODUCTION:

–**Isa 50:4**, *The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. This seems to be the words of an exemplary believer, but listen to **v.5-6**, The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back. I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. It's Jesus talking. *But the first impression is right!* He means it to be our testimony in following His example of *serving others, listening attentively and submitting to the consequences of His mission.* **Title**, because **HOM.idea**.*

I. Jesus Showed Us How to Serve– **v.4a**, *The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary.*

- A. Isaiah predicted Christ would be *a Servant* (doing Another's will)– **John 5:30** (NKJV), I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me. (God **became human** to show us *how to serve*).
- B. God, after **serving beyond Self in creativity**, submitted to serve a damaged creation by **incarnationally sustaining fallen humanity**.
- C. God **orchestrated His salvation plan personally**, not mechanically.
 1. Jesus, the *Servant Messiah*, was “*given... an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary...*” (He didn't just enter, do the Cross and leave, but **sustained us** with His Word in a *still fallen world*.)
 2. If we follow **the Jesus Pattern** when we **encourage world-weary fellow humans** with the *life-sustaining words* of our Savior.

II. Jesus Showed Us How to Listen

- A. Jesus wasn't *schizophrenic*, living *God nature* one day and *human nature* the next. (He was real God *learning to live* as a real man!)
- B. He **learned dependent trust in His Father** to show us how it's done – **v.4b**, *He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught.* (Jesus created the **Jesus Pattern** by choosing, as a real man, to *listen* to His Father, to **let His Father teach Him daily**.)

C. We follow **the Jesus Pattern** as *disciples* [**alt. trans.** of “*like one being taught*”] by **letting God start our day and get our full attention**:

1. **God's responsibility: v.5a**, *The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears...*
2. **Our responsibility: Obeying His teaching** [lit., “*to obey*” = *to hear*]– **v.5b**, *and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back.*

III. Jesus Showed Us How to Suffer– **v.6**, *I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.*

- A. **Is this part of the Jesus Pattern?** In a fallen, dysfunctional world, it is– **2 Tim 3:12** (NKJV), Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. (We don't *run* from suffering; we *face* it.)
- B. *Obeying God* can bring *suffering*– **Heb. 5:8**, Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered. (What was Christ's attitude in *suffering persecution* or *psycho-spiritual pain*?– **Luk 22:42**, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”)

CONCLUSION:

–[**Scott Peck**: “The quickest way to change your attitude toward pain is to accept the fact that everything that happens to us has been designed for our spiritual growth.] But *spiritual growth* isn't quick. Learning to **follow the pattern of Christ's own earthly life**, in *serving*, and *listening* and *submitting to suffering* is a process we continue, “*morning by morning*,” until we bid this world of suffering good-bye and meet Him face to face.

Isaiah 50:4-6 (NIV)

4 The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught.

5 The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back.

6 I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.