

Morning by Morning

Isaiah 50:4

In Isaiah 50:4, the Servant of the Lord says that God gave Him "the tongue of those who are instructed to know how to sustain the weary with a word." Before He spoke, God woke Him every morning and opened His ear to listen. Paul teaches the same in Colossians 4, where he spends three verses on prayer, addresses our speech, and calls for words that are always gracious and seasoned with salt. Today, we will follow the Servant from the morning classroom to the people who need a word, and then to the upper room, where Jesus spent His last night steadying His frightened disciples.

I. Before He Spoke, He Listened

- A. Isaiah 50:4: *He awakens me each _____; he awakens my ear to listen like those being instructed.*
- B. Isaiah 50:5: *The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I did not _____.*
- C. Paul does the same thing. Before he talks about speech, he mentions prayer.
 - (1.) Colossians 4:2: *Devote yourselves to _____; stay alert in it with thanksgiving;* (2.) Colossians 4:3: *At the same time, pray also for us ...*, and (3.) Colossians 4:3: *...that God may open a door to us for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains,*

II. Gracious Speech Can Be Learned

- A. Isaiah 50:4: *The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are _____ to know how to sustain the weary with a word.*
 - (1.) Gracious speech isn't a personality type. Speaking well is something we learn, (2.) Colossians 4:6: *Let your speech always be _____, ..., and (3.) Colossians 4:6: Let your speech always be ...*

III. Someone Near You Needs Encouragement

- A. Isaiah 50:4: *The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are instructed to know how to sustain the weary with _____.*
 - (1.) It can be as simple as a sentence; (2.) Luke 8:48: *"Daughter," he said to her, "your faith has saved you. Go in peace."*
- B. Notice who the word is for. The _____
 - (1.) Isaiah 40:29: *He gives strength to the faint and strengthens the powerless, and (2.) In chapter 50, we learn how He delivers it. He sends a Servant with a word.*
- C. The writer of Hebrews tells us to _____
 - (1.) Hebrews 3:13: *encourage each other _____, while it is still called today, ...and (2.) This assumes we're paying attention.*

IV. Looking to Jesus: The Servant at the Last Supper

- A. John 14:1: *Don't let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.*
- B. Now, back to Isaiah:
 - (1.) Isaiah 50:6: *I gave my back to those who beat me, and my cheeks to those who tore out my beard. I did not hide my face from scorn and spitting, (2.) When this happened, He did not hit back. He did not curse them, and (2.a.) Isaiah 50:5: The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I did not turn back.*
- C. He is still doing it.
 - (1.) Matthew 11:28: *Come to me, all of you who are weary and _____, and I will give you rest.*

V. As We Close...

- A. Tomorrow morning, try the Servant's order.
 - (1.) Open your Bible and your ear, (2.) Ask Him who you're going to talk to and what they need, and (3.) Then go find the weary one and give them a word.

Questions

(1.) What usually comes first in your day, listening to God or talking to people? What would it take to change that order this week (2.) Why is it encouraging that gracious speech can be learned instead of being a personality trait some people are born with? Where has God been teaching you to speak differently? (3.) Think of a time when someone's words to you had both. What made them work? Which way do you lean when you get it wrong? (4.) Who in your life, or in this congregation, seems tired right now? What is one sentence you could say to them before next Sunday? (5.) What does it tell you about Jesus that He spent that night comforting other people? How does remembering the way He has spoken to you change the way you speak to others?

Answers

Burdened	Morning
Seasoned with Salt	Gracious
Turn back	Daily
Instructed	Weary
A Word	Prayer