

Isaiah 50

8-18-05

“Never Too Late!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. **Pray for Israel** regarding the **Pull-Out** in Gaza. (Zeph.2:4-7)
- 1.2. **Who:** Great Chess player in Art Gallery
Sees: Runs across a chess game in progress
Describe: Painting (Satan vs. opponent) - {Satan pushing away from game w/grin - Opponent sweating, anxious, hopeless}
Caption: "Checkmate"
Studies: For 6 hours, asks for a chess set.
Sets up: exactly (glancing up & down)
Smiled: looked at the opponent
Said: "I wish you could here my message...I have good news...it's a message of hope...there is one move to set you free! - I wish I could communicate it to him."
1.2.1. God's message for the seemingly: incurable, irreparable, untreatable, inoperable sinner.

2. **LEARN FROM ME! (50:1-11)**

- 2.1. **DIVORCE!** (1-3)
- 2.2. Israel was **married** to Jehovah; she turned to idols committing **spiritual adultery**; so He **“put her away”**(divorce, or separation?); & **sold her** into slavery(Babylon).
 - 2.2.1. **Q:** Did He divorce her, or just separate for a time?
 - 2.2.1.1. **Deut.24:1-4; Jer.3:1-3.**
 - 2.2.2. **Israel prove or produce the document?**
 - 2.2.2.1. {Not: Deut 24, maybe never put it in her hand?}
 - 2.2.2.2. Search the earth, search the heavens, the bill of divorce cannot be found!
 - 2.2.3. **Emphasis is:**
 - 2.2.3.1. **Was this something God did, or reacted to?** (reacted to)
 - 2.2.3.2. **Whose fault was this?** (Israel's, not God's)
 - 2.2.3.3. **Was it irreparable?** (No, of course not)
 - 2.2.4. God will restore her once again.
 - 2.2.4.1. **The Key? – His great love, mercy, & power to save!**
 - 2.2.4.1.1. God **“keeps on loving”** even when his people turn their backs on Him! {**Eveready Love... “Keeps on Lovin!”**}
 - 2.2.4.1.2. As seen in the great drama of the book of Hosea.
 - 2.2.4.2. Just as He restores people today, who **turn from sin & obey** Him.
 - 2.2.4.3. **Read James 4:4-10.**

- 2.2.4.4. "It is impossible for God to put away the soul that clings to him in penitence & faith." F.B.Meyer
- 2.3. Now a **contrast** with the disobedient nation & the obedient Servant!
- 2.4. **HEAR, SPEAK, OBEY!** (4-6)
- 2.5. More & more you'll see right before your eyes this "Servant"(49:3) become more like Jesus.
- 2.5.1. He had a ready tongue, but 1st an open ear!
- 2.5.2. **Order:** Open ear; ready tongue; a set face; a body surrendered to suffering.
- 2.5.3. **Let's play follow our leader!**
- 2.5.3.1. [1] **Open ear** – How(4b,5) - Morning Devotions.
- 2.5.3.2. [2] **Ready tongue** – (4a)
- 2.5.3.3. [3] **Set face** – How(7)
- 2.5.3.4. [4] **Surrendered body** – When(6)
- 2.5.3.5. **Q: Which do you have the hardest time with?**
- 2.5.3.5.1. Listening; speaking; vision; or surrender?
- 2.6. (4) **Here are early morning vigils before God...to receive instruction!**
- 2.6.1. **Vigil?** – 13th cent "the eve of some festivals and holy days, spent in prayer."
- 2.6.1.1. From the word *watchfulness, awake, alert.*
- 2.6.1.2. Here is where Spurgeon named his famous devotional "*Morning by Morning!*"
- 2.6.1.3. Jesus spoke of this in the Lord's Prayer regarding our **daily diet!**
- 2.6.1.4. Jesus also set the example for us in taking time Himself to pray & seek God.
- 2.6.1.4.1. Mark 1:35 "Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed."
- 2.6.1.5. When your **ear** is open, there are more opportunities to open the **lips!**
- 2.6.1.6. Listen **before** we speak & listen **more than** we speak!
- 2.6.1.7. Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening".
- 2.6.1.8. **Q: Are you teachable like Jesus?**
- 2.7. (6) Fulfilled in Mark15:19 "when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified."
- 2.7.1. Mt.26:67 "Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands, saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?"
- 2.7.2. So, what was His response to persecution?
- 2.7.2.1. {acceptance rather than seeking vengeance}
- 2.7.3. There are great lessons in "*the school of suffering!*"
- 2.7.3.1. **Read Heb.5:8** & note.

- 2.8. **FLINT FACED!** (7-9)
- 2.9. Sounds like Lk.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, and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. But they did not receive Him, because **His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem.**”
- 2.9.1. He purposed to fulfill His mission!
- 2.9.2. Stay yourself on God.
- 2.9.3. Set your sail in His direction!
- 2.10. **Note:** God’s part “*God will help me*” & Jesus/our part “*I have set my face*”.
- 2.10.1. The awareness of the **Lord’s help** still calls for a **personal dedication!**
- 2.10.2. He is prepared to submit to anything because He knows **He will be** sustained by the Lord! (Same for you?)
- 2.11. **HOW TO WALK IN DARKNESS!** (10-11)
- 2.12. Even believers who fear God & obey His voice can still end up in the darkness of perplexity! {But, there’s hope in darkness!}
- 2.12.1. What do we do in the **darkness of perplexities & confusions?**
- 2.12.2. Darkness not of the heart, but of the **mind**.
- 2.12.3. The temptation is to “*light our own fires*”(11) & try to find our own way out.
- 2.12.4. **I picture being in the middle of a pitch-black warehouse.**
A voice says, “I know this place pretty well, take my arm & I will lead you out, **but only do as I say**”. You have a lighter in your pocket you offer to light the way. The voice emphatically says, “**NO, it’s best w/o the lighters light!**” You don’t understand the voices sharp rebuke. You find yourself stumbling in the dark, bruising your shins & tripping as you go. Getting more & more frustrated why you can’t use the lighter. When you get to the other side, you find the door. Going outside the building you read, “**Caution, Odorless Gas Inside**”. The lighter would not have been a good light, though it sure seemed it at the time.
- 2.12.5. 1st thing to do is nothing. This is difficult but sit tight.
- 2.12.5.1. “When you’re rattled, don’t rush!”
- 2.12.5.2. Remember what do you do when you’re driving & you hit a **heavy fog bank?** (Do you speed up or slow down?)
- 2.12.5.3. When you hit spiritual fog do the same thing!
- 2.12.5.4. Keep your life’s ship anchored, or tied to the dock.
- 2.12.6. **Trust** in the Lord, **wait** on Him, & he will give you the light you need, when you need it!
- 2.12.6.1. While you trust God, He can work.
- 2.12.6.2. **Worrying** often prevents Him from doing anything!
- 2.12.6.3. Only the peace of God will quiet our minds & put our hearts at rest.
- 2.12.6.4. We are never w/o a pilot even when we do not which way to steer!

2.13.(11) Don't warm yourself from your own fire. (Peter)

2.13.1. The temptation is to "*light our own fires*"(11) & try to find our own way out.

2.13.2. Or, follow **deceptive beacons** leading us toward the danger of the rocks.

2.13.3. He says, "*follow me, come after me, surrender to me.*"

2.13.4. Premature deliverance may circumvent God's work of grace in your life.

2.13.4.1. Be willing to abide in the darkness, knowing He is present!

2.13.4.2. *It is better to walk in the dark w/God than to walk alone in the light.*

2.13.4.3. Moving the hands of a **clock** doesn't change the time!

2.13.4.4. You can force a **rosebud** to open, but you spoil the flower!