

Sustaining Words for those in Darkness Isaiah 50:4-11

Introduction

One of the most dangerous false teachings in churches today is the idea that the more faithful you are to Jesus Christ, the less you will suffer. Isaiah 50:4-11 shows that's not what God says.

These verses are written to believers who are in the darkness of trials. (v.10)

Walking in the darkness refers to those times we go through trials and we don't yet see God fulfilling His promises.

What does God want to say to us at those times?

When we face trials, the words of God's Servant will sustain us. (vv.4-5)

V.10 shows us who is talking here — God's Servant.

All through Isaiah we have read about God's Servant who would be born of a virgin (7:14), whose name is Mighty God (ch.9), who would be born in the line of David and bring peace to the whole world (ch.11), who would bring salvation to the nations (chs. 42 and 49), and who would be punished by God the Father to pay for sin's guilt, and whom God would raise from the dead (ch.53).

This Servant is Jesus Christ, who has sustaining words to speak to Israel, and to us, when we go through trials.

What the Servant says to sustain us during trials. (vv.6-9)

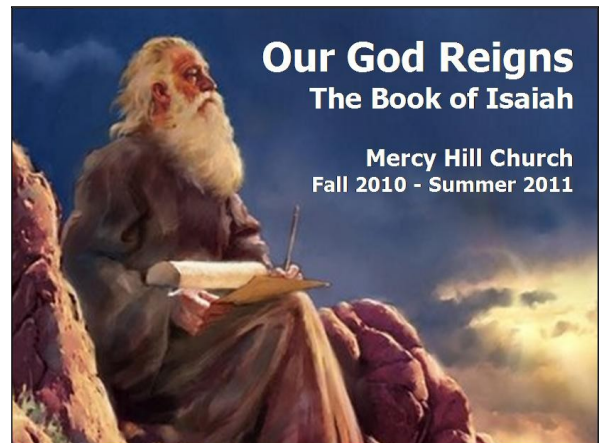
"When God ordains suffering, submit to Him." (v.6)

"Keep trusting that God will help you and vindicate you." (vv.7-9)

What we must avoid during trials. (vv.10-11)

Don't try to get relief from trials in ways that are against God's will.

Instead, keep praying, submitting, trusting, and relying on God.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

Have you ever had a time when you felt like you were walking in the darkness of trials without any of God's light? Share what you experienced, what made this difficult, what ended up happening.

How does it affect you to think that Jesus would speak sustaining words to believing Israelites who were suffering in the exile?

How does it affect you to hear Jesus say: "When God ordains suffering, submit to Him"?

How does it affect you to hear Jesus say: "Keep trusting that God will help you and vindicate you"?

What are some ways that you try to get relief from trials that are against God's will? What reasons does this passage give for why we should not do that?

What's your take-away from this message? What are you going to do differently? When? How?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

