

Part II, Lesson 20

Isaiah

The Lord is Salvation

Faithless
And
Faithful

Isaiah
50

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex
Curriculum*

Isaiah Part II, Lesson 20

Faithless and Faithful

Isaiah 50

In the beginning of the fiftieth chapter of Isaiah we find God's answer to a complaint which we do not have. From what God says here, we can assume that God has heard the people complain about their situation and blame Him for it. Read Isaiah 50:1-3.

Two things we need to know when we read this. First, under the law of Moses, all a man had to do to divorce his wife was to give her a signed document saying that he was divorcing her. He could then send her out of his house. (Deuteronomy 24:1-4) God asked the people of Israel, who were slaves in Babylon, to show him the certificate of divorce. His challenge to Israel is to show God what He did to put the Israelites in captivity. God did not desert Israel, Israel deserted God. Israel broke the covenant...marriage vows.

The second thing is about slavery. The Israelites were forced slaves to the Babylonians. God said I did not sell you to a creditor. In those days, if a person was in debt to someone and could not pay the loan off, they became the slave of the one holding the note. If a father could not pay his debts, he could sell his children to the person to whom he owed money and pay off his debt.

Then God told them the reason that the break up of the family took place, and what was the debt for which they were sold. He said it was their sin. They caused their own slavery and hardship.

Their faithlessness was obvious. God said that He was there, but they weren't. When He came to them to forgive their sins, to heal them and to protect them, they were no where to be found. The idea here is that God is always available to His people. All we have to do is to call on Him. He will always hear. But, as we have seen earlier in Isaiah, they had put their faith in other gods...they had looked to other nations for help ...they had ignored the true God. All they had to do was to show their faith in Him and He would be there for them.

God's answer to their complaint is, "Show me the documents, tell me when I sold you into slavery." And God's response is, obviously, "Your complaint is unfounded."

The next (unwritten) complaint from Israel was that God had forgotten them and left them in exile too long. Isn't it interesting that the same people who had looked to others to keep them safe, now look to God to rescue them from slavery. They might have been remembering that God rescued their ancestors from Egypt.

God's response was to remind them of His power. (Verse 2) What He is saying is that when they were depending on other gods and other nations to protect them, He was available all the time and unlike the others, He had the strength to save them.

His strength is in long arms that can reach out and take what He wants. In hand to hand combat, the soldier

Isaiah Part II, Lesson 20

Faithless and Faithful

with the longest arms won the battle. God was able to reach them even in Babylon.

God had the power to save them. He reminds them that He is the creator and He can dry up the sea, kind of like He did when He rescued them from Egypt. He can dry up rivers, kind of like He did when He led the children of Israel across the Jordan river on dry land.

He has the power to save them. He takes all the light from the heavens and if necessary, He can make a robe of burlap to cover the whole sky. (An eclipse?) Israel needed none other than God to deliver them.

Some see the next part of this chapter as a message from the loyal Israelites who were probably a small minority among the captives. Read Isaiah 50:4-11.

Their message includes:

1. God gives words which sustain the weary. Christians should always be ready with those words.
2. God's loyal servant listens. God has a message for us and seeks for those who will listen to His Spirit.
3. God's messenger may be mistreated. (Verse 6) Some see this as speaking of Jesus' suffering.
4. God is with His servant and His servant can be sure that he will never be ashamed of God's message.
5. In a courtroom scene, God's servant is confident that no one can successfully bring charges against him. God is his lawyer and anyone who accuses the servant of wrongdoing will wear out trying to prove it.
6. God's messenger calls people out of the darkness into the light...into a life of trusting God...into a life of depending on God.
7. And, God's messenger ends his sermon with a warning.

The warning is to those who do not know God. They are pictured as building fires of honor to their gods. When they ignite the fires, they blow up. Suddenly they are engulfed in flames. Some see this as the reverse of the message of God's servant. (Verse 4) They choose words which offer nothing but pain and suffering. Whichever is the best picture, the outcome is the same. Trapped by flames of their own making, or hope that ultimately leads to failure, they find themselves in torment and destruction.

God's invitation to us through this chapter is to follow the path of faith, depending on Him to give us salvation and protection from the work of Satan.

*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

Page Three

Scripture Memory: "Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced." Isaiah 50:7

Lesson Goal: To encourage students to see sin for what it is, and to point out to them that God has a message of hope for His children.

Isaiah Part II, Lesson 20

Faithless and Faithful—Isaiah 50

Student Worksheet

Listen during the lesson for this information:

1. How did a man divorce his wife, according to Moses?
2. How did some father's pay their debts in Isaiah's day?
3. God is always _____ to His people. All we have to do is to _____ on Him. He will always _____.
4. When the captives in Babylon called on God to rescue them, what other rescue would they have been thinking of?
5. When God told His people that He could dry up the sea and the rivers, what illustrations of that can be seen in Hebrew history?
6. What six things are part of the message of God in Isaiah 50:4-11

Page Four

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How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.

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