

ISAIAH 50

Lesson 40: "Christ Listened to His Father to Save Those Who Listen to Him"¹

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MAIN IDEA



Christ listened perfectly to his Father and obeyed completely, even though it meant suffering; as a result, he will save all who turn from self to him.

SUMMARY OUTLINE

I. A Nation Who Refused to Listen is Sent into Exile (50:1-3).

- A. God is speaking to Judah explaining the reasons for their exile in Babylon...they failed to listen to him and continued worshipping idols. They believed that God had "divorced" them just like he did with the ten northern tribes (Jer. 3:8) but God says where is your mother's certificate of divorce?
- B. God reassures them that he had not divorced them for her spiritual adultery and he is not through with the nation. The unconditional promises of the Davidic covenant (2 Samuel 7) precluded such a divorce for Judah, although there would be a time of separation.

II. A Servant Who Perfectly Listened is Sent as Savior (50:4-9).

- A. In contrast to Judah the servant (Jesus Christ) listens to the Father.
- B. In these verses the Servant is speaking prophetically about being perfectly obedient to the Father and the suffering that follows (my back, my cheeks, my face). See Mark 15:15; Luke 22:63-65; Mark 15:19-20. He did not suffer because he was guilty.

III. A Key Question: Will You Listen to the Servant or to Yourself (50:10-11)?

Verses 10 and 11 issue a call to the unconverted to believe and be saved along with a warning that those who tried to escape moral, spiritual darkness by "lighting their own fire" (man-made religions and human works) were to end up in eternal torment.

¹ Outline adapted from "Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Isaiah," by Andrew Davis.

7 WAYS TO LISTEN TO GOD

1. Listen _____: anticipate His speaking to you.
"In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly." (Ps. 5:3 NIV)
2. Listen _____: give Him a chance to speak.
"He says, "Be still, and know that I am God"" (Ps. 46:10a NIV).
3. Listen _____: we may not always be ready for what he has to say.
"I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry." (Ps. 40:1 NIV).
4. Listen _____: meditate on His Word.
"I reach out for your commands, which I love, that I may meditate on your decrees." (Ps. 119:48 NIV)
5. Listen _____: remember all the past times He has clearly spoken to you.
"For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe." (Ps. 61:3 NIV)
6. Listen _____: recognize your dependence on the Holy Spirit to instruct.
"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." (Jn. 14:26 NIV).
7. Listen _____: be prepared to be corrected or enlightened.
"Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (Ps. 139:23-24 NIV).