

Isaiah: A Prophet for Our Time  
Following Christ's Example  
Isaiah 50:1-11

For the most part, we are better talkers than we are listeners. We hear, but we don't listen very well. Often, in our conversations, we are not really listening; we are forming our response to whatever is being said. In our highly politicized culture, we aren't just forming our response based on what is being said, but rather who is saying it. If we bring this tendency into our relationship with God, the consequences can be devastating.

1. True servants will grow in grace.
  
2. True servants will endure suffering.
  
3. True servants will depend on God.

We must recognize our own tendency to wander from God by refusing to obey his Word. We must stand in awe of the astonishing humility and obedience of the Suffering Servant, Jesus Christ. We must feel the weight of the abuse he endured and with humble tears acknowledge that it is our sins that produced his sufferings. We must consider his daily pattern of listening to his Father and seek to imitate it. Let's awaken our ears to listen to God's words of instruction then seek to live out that wisdom, sharing it with those who are in our spheres of influence with both example and word.

Reflection

When we think about prayer, we usually think in terms of talking to God. Consider your own prayer life and think about how much of it is spent actually listening to God. Why do you think we are so averse to listening? Could it be pride, self-sufficiency, self-promotion, or any other number of things of which the Bible calls us to repent? What are some things that can change in your routine that would demonstrate a willingness to follow the example of Christ? What would happen if our listening to God and our obedience to Him led to suffering on your part? Would you still listen? Would you still follow? Would you still trust? How much sweeter will the vindication of the resurrection be if we truly depended on God in times of suffering?