

## With His Face Set Like Flint, Our Resolute Redeemer...

## 1. Counsels the Weary    2. Offers Himself to Suffering    3. Looks Forward to Vindication

*Face Set Like Flint*

- **Vs. 7b.** That's what Jesus says today in Gospel acc Isa. Sermon series. Today's reading, from Isa 50, is one of the 4 "servant songs," special poems in book of Isa that talk re God's servant, coming Messiah – what like, do. We know God's servant is Jesus himself; today says **vs. 7b.** What mean? Flint: very hard rock, cannot easily broken. People used to take flint, break stones, fashion into stone tools; that hard. So when Jesus says **vs. 7b,** means: stone-faced, determined, resolute, endure/go through anything to accomplish mission, nothing would deter him. With March madness b-ball, could think Jesus like college b-ball team: put on game face; came to win; nothing stop him. Jesus: resolute redeemer; what this whole lesson all about. So: theme (Isa tells us), parts.

*Counsels the Weary*

- **Vs. 4-5a.** Here, Jesus says Father teaches him how to speak, how to listen. Speak: "**well-instructed tongue;**" listen: "**wakens/opens ears.**" Reason: so may "**know the word that sustains the weary.**" Counselors: pros that try to help weary, people overcome with guilt, grief, hardships, perplexing situations. Your pastors counselors; counsel with God's Word. And every counselor knows: listen before speak. First listen to understand person, situation; then know how to speak "**word...weary.**"
- Jesus, perfect counselor. First listens; "**[God] wakens...to listen.**" So every day, Jesus' ears attentive cries mercy (Ps 130:2); says call upon me day trouble (Ps 50:15); wants us pray him; first listens. Then speaks, with "**a well-instructed...the weary.**" What Jesus say to weary? "**Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls**" (Mt 11:28-29). Jesus sustains weary by giving them spiritual rest with word of his Gospel. Are you feeling weary? Come, I give rest! Weary with guilt? I've forgiven all sins, through my death/res. Weary with grief, sadness? In my Father's house, no sorrow, no tears; just many rooms; I'm preparing one for you. Weary with hardships in life, perplexing situations crushing you down? In this world, trouble; but take heart, I've overcome world (Jn 16:33). Surely I am with you always to end of world (Mt 28:20).
- Jesus perfect counselor. Listens prayers, speaks his word of Gospel comfort to sustain weary. Don't take that Gospel for granted or distance self from it, as if ancient biblical teaching learned when kid. No, when you feel weary, sit down with Savior in his private counseling chamber. No hardship he can't handle; no heartbreak he won't help you through. Come to him in prayer; listen to his Gospel, because for you in your specific situation he knows the "**word that sustains the weary.**"

*Offers Himself to Suffering*

- **Vs. 5b-6.** So in face of horrible torture, Jesus obedient to Father, offered self to suffering. Past week, out of town, visiting family out of state. While on vacation, toured naval submarine, USS Silversides. Muskegon, MI. Fought in WW2; in fact, sank more Japanese ships in WW2 than any other surviving sub in Navy. While fascinating to tour actual, operational sub, also made me think: if you in Navy stationed on that sub, with cramped corridors, crowded bunks, tight working spaces; heat; smell diesel, dozens other crew members; strict schedule of duties – you'd have to be perfectly obedient to captain, putting self through tough conditions. To survive on naval sub, you'd have to set face like flint.
- In similar way, our resolute redeemer set face like flint and was perfectly obedient to heavenly Father. **Vs. 5b,** despite fact that Father's will involved much suffering. In GG, Jesus prayed, "**My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done**" (Mt 26:42). And Jesus drank cup, obeyed Father. And offered himself to suffering. Notice in lesson, doesn't say: they beat/mistreated me. **Vs. 6.** Let it happen to him. Takes you right back to MT, to night Jewish guards

spit in face, punched, said “Prophecy who hit.” Takes right back to GF morning, when Roman soldiers made fun of him as king with staff, purple robe, crown of thorns.

- And Jesus let it happen! Willingly offered self to suffering, in order save us from suffering. So simple, so profound. Any Christian K-er can tell you: Jesus died save me from sins. But ponder that: went through this – **vs. 6** – went through hell, bring us to heaven. That’s not just love; determination; stone-faced, game face Savior, resolute Redeemer with face set like flint, who offered self to suffering, for us.

### *Looks Forward to Vindication*

- **Vs. 7-8a.** Vind is when you’re accused of wrongdoing, guilt; some person/action/evidence clears you of that guilt, proves your innocence. E.g., Olympic athlete accused of using steroids, about to have gold medal taken; but at hearing, evidence revealed proving that steroids actually not hers but planted in locker by people trying to sabotage career. Discovery vindicates her; clears her of guilt.
- On GF, Jesus appeared guilty: accused of guilt, tried as criminal, punished as criminal. But you know cross isn’t end of story! On Easter Sunday morn, God proved Jesus was innocent of any wrongdoing by raising from dead. Vindication! Jesus looking forward to his res vind when says **vs. 7-8a.** Jesus’ grave was not end. Sunrise on Easter morning would bring Jesus’ vindication, proof of innocence, proof that sacrifice for sins of world duly accomplished, God’s terms for our eternal salvation had been met.
- Jesus here even taunts anyone who would challenge that. **Vs. 8b-9.** “Can’t take away my gold medal,” says Jesus. “Can’t accuse me of sin; can’t say my death cross didn’t pay for world’s sins; and can’t take my forgiveness, love away from my people. I am vindicated; therefore, so are they.”
- Dear sisters/brothers in Christ, you may be guilty sin, but since Jesus paid for sins, rose from dead, not only he vind, so are you! Through Jesus, you cleared of guilt, justified by grace, vindicated by God himself. Apostle Paul picks up on very passage (notice how similar to Isa), applies to us: **“Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? ...For I am convinced that [nothing] in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom 8:33-35a, 38-39).** That’s why Jesus set face like flint, bore cross, rose from dead: to vind himself, yes; but more: to vind you, so that you would know beyond shadow doubt you are God’s dearly loved, forgiven child.

### *Trust Your Resolute Redeemer*

- Now at end, lesson says, **vs. 10.** Jesus asks us to trust him; that is essence of faith. No matter what you’re going through right now, no matter how your faith being tested, Jesus says, trust me. Why? Because Jesus has set his face like flint for us; put on game face to counsel us with Gospel, suffer for us, vindicate us with res. That’s kind of Savior we have/trust: our resolute Redeemer.

### **Isaiah 50:4-10**

The Sovereign LORD has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. <sup>5</sup>The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears;

I have not been rebellious, I have not turned away. <sup>6</sup>I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.

<sup>7</sup>Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. <sup>8</sup>He who vindicates me is near.

Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! <sup>9</sup>It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me. Who will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up.

<sup>10</sup>Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the word of his servant? Let the one who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on their God.