



“The Marks of a Disciple”

Isaiah 50:4-9 ♦ Pastor Jim Lennon
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Introduction - *A disciple is a follower and a learner. There is no one better to follow than God Himself. Today in Isaiah, Jesus, the promised Servant, shows us how to be a true disciple.*

I. Excursus: How Should Christians Respond?

- A. Assume that the government’s main objective is safety.
- B. Also assume that the government does not have a Biblical worldview.
- C. How should believers in Jesus respond to a secular government?
- D. There are four clear Biblical mandates to consider:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
- E. Balancing these mandates is a difficult task and requires prayer and discernment.
- F. What are we to do during this “forced Sabbath?”

- G. Consider God’s purposes in our trials.
 - 1. To become more like Christ.
 - 2. To show us what’s in our heart.
 - 3. To deepen our godly character and purify our faith in Him.
 - 4. Trials help us learn perseverance, which brings us to spiritual maturity.

- H. Paul’s example clarifies our response to trials: (II Corinthians 1:6-12)
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5. (I Peter 5:6-7) Peter adds, begin with:

II. A True Disciple Listens to God.

- A. The Servant is taught to speak to others the way the Lord God taught Him. (Isaiah 50:4)
- B. A disciple is a learner who becomes more and more like the one he follows. (Matt. 10:24-25)
- C. How does the Lord God speak?

- D. How does the Servant learn from the Lord God?
1. He is a learner all the time.
 2. The Servant is listening.
 3. Learning is a process that takes time.
 4. While God's people, Israel, was not listening, the Servant-disciple was listening to what the Lord God was saying.
- E. Jesus, God's Servant, listened to what His heavenly Father was saying.
(Jn. 5:19; 12:49-50)
- F. Jesus, the disciple of the Lord God, immersed Himself in the Scripture.

III. A True Disciple Obeys God.

- A. The Servant was fully and willingly obedient to the Lord.
(Isaiah 50:5-6)
- B. The extent of Messiah's willing obedience to the Lord God is seen in what He was willing to endure.
1. Flogging
 2. Torture
 3. Humiliation
 4. Death

IV. A True Disciple Trusts in God. (Isaiah 50:7)

- A. Willing obedience through suffering is only possible as a result of complete trust in the Lord God.
- B. If we don't trust God, we won't obey God.

V. A True Disciple is Near to God. (Isaiah 50:8-9)

- A. The Servant is able to trust and obey the Lord God because God is NEAR to Him.
- B. Believers in Jesus can experience that nearness in a personal intimacy with Jesus, that we need in times of trial.

Conclusion -