Isaiah 50:1-3 Thus says the Lord: “Where *is* the certificate of your mother’s divorce, Whom I have put away? Or which of My creditors *is it* to whom I have sold you? For your iniquities you have sold yourselves, And for your transgressions your mother has been put away. **2**Why, when I came, *was there* no man? *Why,* when I called, *was there* none to answer? Is My hand shortened at all that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to deliver? Indeed with My rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness; Their fish stink because *there is* no water, And die of thirst.
**3**I clothe the heavens with blackness, And I make sackcloth their covering.”

I love Isaiah 50 – it’s such a powerful chapter in God’s Word. It’s convicting and empowering all in the space of 11 verses. As we walk in this Missions Way, we take note. God is with us. He walks with us each and every moment of each and every day. We’re not alone. Those who find themselves alone have chosen to be alone. God has not put us away. We have stopped our ears. We have closed our eyes. In times of old, a man could put away his wife on a whim, sell his children on impulse; yet, God had not done that to the Jewish people and He has not done that to those far from Him now. It’s our sin that separates us… we choose this place… we choose our separation. We choose the lonely darkness of self over the warm embrace of God. God welcomes all, but we must come humble of spirit and contrite in heart that we might receive.

Separated though the Jewish people are in these verses, we’re reminded of the power of our God. He’s not short of hand. He’s powerful to redeem those who call. He has power to deliver at the sound of our cry. We’re never alone; we’ve only drawn the curtain. The eyes of the Lord are upon us even as we set ourselves up for struggle and surround ourselves with a sea of sin. At the cry of our repentant voice, God is quick to dry the sea, He is powerful to offer a way in the wilderness. Though a threatening sea surrounds us, we will arrive dry shod on the other side as we remain faithful to Him. He set the stars in place… He will save a repentant heart.

 This week, as we meet those God sets in our path, let’s not forget the saving Grace He gave to us. Though we may feed a few, food is not our purpose. Though we may encourage a few, encouragement is not our call. We are here to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to lost and hurting souls. We’re here to offer the hope of a Living Savior to all who have ears to hear. We’re here to encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ, who will remain in the Missions field long after we return home. Our God is a God of unending power, abundant Mercy, and infinite Grace. He will guide us this week, as we seek His Face and do His Will. Let’s be excited for where He leads.

Isaiah 50:4-6 “The Lord God has given Me The tongue of the learned, That I should know how to speak A word in season to *him who is* weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear To hear as the learned. **5**The Lord God has opened My ear; And I was not rebellious, Nor did I turn away. **6**I gave My back to those who struck *Me,* And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.

 Isaiah 50 is prophetic of our Savior Jesus Christ. 700 years before Christ was born, Isaiah gave us a glimpse into the workings of the Suffering Servant who saved our souls. Jesus, the greatest Missionary, coming from Glory to save us from Damnation, gives all glory to God for the success of His Mission. He recognizes that God is the source of His wisdom and His words. God is the source of life, awakening Him morning by morning – giving Him ear to hear – not as the wicked, but as the wise. God opened Christ’s ear to hearing and His heart to understanding. Though He was mistreated, spit upon, beaten, hated for no other reason than His loving statement of the Truth, Christ did not turn away, He did not become discouraged, but willingly offered Himself as sacrifice, offered His cheek and turned the other, offered His back for the rod, offered His Body for the Cross, that we might live.

 In this time of Missions, what might we learn from our Master? Let’s pray for the tongue of the learned, the words of wisdom, a spirit of discernment as we contact those we walk among. There are many who are weary, who are tired in both body and soul, who need a soft word spoken in due season. The right word at the right time is like a cool drink in a parched land. Proverbs 15:23 reminds us - A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, And a word spoken in due season, how good it is!

 As we awaken each morning, let us awaken with ears to hear and eyes to see. Let us awaken with a heart to understand. God offers us insights as we minister to those around us. People are reached for Jesus in many different ways. Some hear words. Some see service. Some seek a listening ear. No matter what the weary soul needs, let us pray that we are obedient to God. Not everyone will accept, some will be angry, and some will reject… let us consider it all joy to have this opportunity to offer the Gospel. We may only reach one soul, but that is a soul of infinite and eternal value to Heaven.

 Our Savior came on a Mission from the golden hues of Heaven, not considering it robbery that He came to die. Our righteousness came because He accepted our wretchedness. May we have a heart to connect with the weary that their wretchedness may be exchanged for righteousness as well.

Isaiah 50:7-9 “For the Lord God will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed. **8***He is* near who justifies Me; Who will contend with Me? Let us stand together. Who *is* My adversary? Let him come near Me. **9**Surely the Lord God will help Me; Who *is* he *who* will condemn Me? Indeed they will all grow old like a garment; The moth will eat them up.

 We’re back with the prophecy of Jesus in Isaiah 50. He is our Hupo Grammos – Greek for master copy. He is the ultimate Disciple. John 5:19 tells us Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. Likewise, what we see the Master do, we must do as well.

 Notice that Jesus knows the Source of His help. He knows from whence His help cometh. His help, like ours, comes from the Lord, just as Psalm 121:2 tells us. We can do nothing outside of the Spirit of God that has any eternal meaning. Our confidence is in the Lord. As we studied earlier, He gives us the words to speak in due season, gives us the insights and the opportunities to witness. He opens the doors, but we must be ready to step through.

Like Christ, who set His face as flint, steadfastly towards Jerusalem as Luke 9:51 tells us, and the completion of His Mission to redeem man to God, we too must set our faces like flint to do the Will of the Father. Jesus was resolutely determined to complete that which the Father called Him to do. He would not be ashamed as He was stripped, as He was beaten, as He was nailed to a Cross, as He heard those He had prayed for mocking Him from the foot of the Cross. He knows the God who justifies Him is near. He knows that He will be raised and live eternally, while those who resist and refuse to accept Him will grow old and die, leaving their bodies to be eaten by the insects. while their souls are tormented in Hell. We won’t face the shame and the torment that He faced, but we must be prepared to be shamed for our faith, rejected for our beliefs, criticized for our boldness… we must remain steadfast, knowing that God decides… we are only the witnesses, chosen to tell all we know.

If God be for us, who can possibly stand against us. In my walk, I’ve found that my times of greatest weakness are also my times of greatest weariness. My mouth will say things that, in times of rest, I would guard better against. Remember that we are meeting the weary of soul, the lost of spirit, each and every day. Love them in their times of spiritual weariness. Our spiritual fruit of long suffering and compassion may reach past sharp tongued weariness to a soul destined for Discipleship. Let’s depend on God to lead us in our Faithfulness this week.

Isaiah 50:10-11 “Who among you fears the Lord? Who obeys the voice of His Servant? Who walks in darkness And has no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord And rely upon his God. **11**Look, all you who kindle a fire, Who encircle *yourselves* with sparks: Walk in the light of your fire and in the sparks you have kindled—This you shall have from My hand: You shall lie down in torment.

 Isaiah 50 is completed tonight with an invitation to fear the Lord. We are obedient to the voice of His Servant, Jesus. Mark 16:15-16 tells us And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. It’s the Great Commission that brings us to this place, bringing the Gospel to some who may not have heard, praying that God will deliver them to salvation by way of repentance and baptism. We, who had no light before the Light of Jesus shown upon our face, have placed our trust in the name of the Lord and we rely upon God to lead us and guide us as we minister to those around us.

 This world is all about Self these days. The world kindles its own fire and seeks to light its own way, encircling itself with the sparks. Like the sparks that drift skyward from a campfire, up into a darkened sky, soon wink out, so too the light of this world winks out. It is a dying light that must constantly be stoked and rekindled, fed and prodded, to keep the sparks alive. But, eventually, this light will die, and those who trusted in it shall lie down in torment. Christ will be judge. Those who have rejected Him will bear witness against themselves.

 Those who believe on Jesus have a Light that never need be rekindled and an Eternal Flame that brightens forever. Our obedience fans the flame to greater and greater intensity. God gives us opportunities – Though Luke 16:10 refers to mammon, it can be applied to the opportunities that God places in our lives as well - He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. When we are faithfully obedient, God gives more opportunities. When we starve the flame of the Spirit by withholding our obedience and service, God will withdraw the opportunities… and we are less for it.

 Let us pray that all are reached this week, and none choose the torment of Hell over the glories of Heaven. In our humble obedience, God will provide witness to those we touch. Some will choose the Eternal Light of Jesus, becoming part of God’s Eternal Flame. Some will choose the world, choosing to remain as a spark from a campfire, bright just a moment, seeming to rise upward, but winking out as they pass into that eternal blackness of night.