

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

Mark 11:1-11

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

*Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. (v5)*

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 14:1--15:47

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature & to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will & in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

## SERMON TEXT- Isaiah 50:4-9a

<sup>4</sup>The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. <sup>5</sup>The Lord God has opened my ear, & I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. <sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me, & my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult & spitting. <sup>7</sup>The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, & I know that I shall not be put to shame; <sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. <sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

## LISTENING TO . . .

**GOD-** *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. How do the “Suffering Servant Songs” (*Isaiah 42:1-4; 49:1-6; 50:4-9a, 53:13--53:12; see also Isaiah 61:1-3; John 12:37-41.*) show us that Jesus has always been God’s plan A for his creation? *See Genesis 3:15; Romans 5:6, 11:32; 1 Corinthians 2:7; Galatians 3:22; Ephesians 1:3-12, 3:9; Colossians 1:26; 1 Timothy 2:6; Hebrews 7:11, 15-28 (don’t forget to check surrounding verses for context)*
2. How does the servant’s listening keep him from disobedience? *See Deuteronomy 6:4, 8:3; Psalms 1:1-2, 40:8, 62:11, 119:70, 77, 92, 174; Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 14:32-42, John 8:27-29, 12:27-28*

**EACH OTHER-** *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. The simple truth is that if we were in the “Hosanna!” crowd (*Mark 11:9-10*), we’d also be in the “Crucify him!” crowd (*Mark 15:11-14*). How does that make you feel to realize not only the fickleness of the human heart, but also your own fickleness? *See Genesis 6:5, 8:21; Ecclesiastes 8:11; Mark 7:21*
4. Now, how do you feel considering Jesus’ faithful obedience- for you, even if you were the only one who needed him? *See Luke 7:36-50; John 3:14-17; Romans 8:32; 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 John 4:9-10*

**NEIGHBORS-** *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Mahatma Gandhi (look him up on Wikipedia) rebuffed Christianity because of the way Christians hate & kill one another (consider Europe’s “Religion Wars”, French Revolution, US Civil War, WWI, WWII, to name a few). How does the so-called Christian Western Culture’s propensity for violence impede Christian witness to a King who never fought or colonized anyone? *See Matthew 5:1-48; Mark 6:38-39; John 6:9-10, 15, 18:36; Romans 12:2, 16-18; 1 Peter 2:19-20, 3:13-17*
6. Often it’s our suffering & “valley lows” that gives us the right word to connect & encourage others in their weariness. However, not just any old thing we say, especially some platitude, that gives sustenance. <sup>V7</sup> is clear that it’s a word borne of the Lord’s help & deliverance, bringing grace to us & others. How does getting in touch with your own suffering & struggles, questioning & despair (*cf. Jeremiah 20:7-12*) give you empathy & empowerment to help others in their difficult moments? Be specific in naming times in your life & those who need to hear from you now words of God’s grace.

Palm Sunday of Our Lord's Passion

03.28.21

Series: God Keeps His Promises

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

A Promise Kept

*Jesus was always God's plan A for our salvation*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame; (v7)

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-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Christ humbled himself & became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name that is above every name. (*Philippians 2:8-9*)

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