

Journey to Easter - Wednesday, March 24 (Day 36)

Isaiah 50:4–9a NIV biblegateway.com

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.
The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears;
I have not been rebellious,
I have not turned away.
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.
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.
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!
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.

Discussion

I am a teacher and it is easy to fall into the trap of thinking that my job is to tell people things they don't know. But I find my best days in the classroom are the ones where I not only teach but when I am being taught. This happens when students wrestle with an idea and this sparks new insights for the entire class, including me. Those are the times when real learning is taking place.

In our reading from Isaiah, the prophet speaks in verse 4 of God's servants as ones who "listen as those who are taught." In other words, these words underline that we don't have all the answers— sometimes we simply need to be good listeners to be taught. That is good advice for hearing the Word of God in the Bible. And it also applies to our relationships and the importance of real listening rather than constantly doling out our opinions and supposed good advice.

Today's Prayer

*Lord Jesus, during this season of Lent we are humbled by the love you show to us, the unlovable. Open our hearts that we may genuinely listen to you and your Word of life.
Amen.*

Source: Luther Seminary – St. Paul, MN 2021 Lenten Devotional “Awesome Mystery”
Image: Submitted by Pastor Carolyn, “A handmade gift.”

Awesome Mystery

