

**The Call to Suffer**  
Isaiah 50 – Part 4 (v.4-7)

**THE HARM OF THE MESSENGER. v.6a**

**1. This is an image of physical suffering.**

- *I gave my back to those who strike and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard.*

**2. There are many Biblical examples of God's messengers experiencing physical harm.**

- Joseph (Genesis 39:1-23); Jeremiah (Jeremiah 37:15; 38:6); John the baptizer (Mark 6:16-17)
- Paul: *I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.* Galatians 6:17; 2 Corinthians 11:24-28
- Hebrews 11:35b-38

**THE HUMILIATION OF THE MESSENGER. v.6b**

**1. This is an image of shame and humiliation.**

- *I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.*
- Disgrace = 'dis-grace'; loss of honor; Spitting = especially on the face, is a sign disrespect, hatred, contempt

**2. Jesus was beaten, shamed and humiliated.**

- Mark 14:65: *And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophecy!" And the guards received him with blows.*
- Mark 15:15-20

**3. Jesus said his followers would experience the same. Luke 9:22-26; John 15:18-20**

- 1 Peter 4:12-13: *Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings...*
- 2 Timothy 3:12: *Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.*

→ No persecution? Then you're not living a godly life in Christ Jesus.

**THE HELP OF THE MESSENGER. v.7**

**1. The rescue: *But the LORD GOD helps me...***

**2. The reality: *...I am not disgraced...***

- 'You can treat me in a disgraceful way—but I am not disgraced.' → Who has your back?

**3. The resolve: *Therefore I have set my face like a flint...***

- Mark 8:31-33; 9:31; 10:33-34; Luke 9:51, 53

**THE HEALING OF THE MESSENGER**

→ They spit upon Jesus to bring humiliation and disgrace. Jesus used spit to heal.

**1. The deaf man in the region of the Decapolis. Mark 7:31-37.** *And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly (v.32-35).*

**2. The blind man at Bethsaida. Mark 8:22-26.** *And he took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Do you see anything?" ....and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly (v.23, 25).*

**3. Healing of the man born blind. John 9:1-41.** *Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam..." So he went and washed and came back seeing (v.6-7).*

- Genesis 50:20: *As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.*