

The Call to Suffer
Isaiah 50 – Part 4 (v.6-9)

THE PROPHET'S CONFIDENCE. v.8

- *He who vindicates me is near.*
-Vindicate = to free from allegation or blame
- *Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.*
-Contend = to battle, rival; to face off
- *Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me.*

→ My attackers can come near to me to accuse—because God is near me.

THE PROPHET'S DEFENSE. v.9

- *Behold, the Lord God helps me*
-Lord God = *adonai YHWH* = the God who is my Lord, Master, Owner.
- *Who will declare me guilty?*

→ There is a confidence here that comes from being protected by God himself

FALSE ACCUSATIONS IN THE BIBLE

- Many followers of God were falsely accused in the Bible. Consider Jesus...
-Accused of being a glutton and drunkard. Luke 7:34
-Accused of being Satan himself! Matthew 10:25
-Accused at his "trial" before the crucifixion. Matthew 26:59-66
- Being well-spoken of is not always a good thing... Luke 6:26, 22-23

KINDS OF ACCUSERS

1. The Anonymous Accuser – the one without the courage to sign their name.

- anonymous notes, letters, etc.
- Anonymous accusers are especially poisonous by (intentionally) planting distrust in relationships.

2. The Absent Accuser – the one without courage to show their face.

- People who accuse you to others, but don't sit down to work it out with you personally. → "shadowboxing"
- John Calvin: "It is a sign of a perverse and treacherous disposition to wound the good name of another, when he has no opportunity of defending himself."
- The 9th Commandment requires protecting our own & our neighbor's good name, especially in witness bearing.

3. The Accuser of the Brethren – Satan. Revelation 12:10; Job 1:11; Zechariah 3:1

4. The Guilty Conscience.

RIGHT IN THE SIGHT OF GOD

- Romans 3:21-24 "justified by his grace as a gift"
- Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.
→ simply put, to declare righteous. To make one right with God.
- Romans 8:31b-35a 3 parallel questions to Isaiah 50:8-9
- Romans 8:1: There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...

"He appeared like a man of God, whose happiness was out of the reach of his enemies, and whose treasure was not only a future but a present good, overbalancing all imaginable ills of life."

-David Hall on Jonathan Edwards, following the vote (230-23) to remove Edwards from his pastorate in Southampton