

## A Word to the Weary

*Isaiah 50:4a: "The Sovereign Lord has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary."*

This is Isaiah speaking in our memory verse. Have you ever sat back and wondered why you come to People of the Word? I'm being serious. What's the point? Hopefully, at least a portion of your response is People of the Word's mission statement, "*Finding the truth of God through the study of His Word.*" Between the homework, the group discussions, and the lectures, you're getting instruction about God, your supreme value to Him, His passionate love for you, and what living a life believing in and following Him should look like. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Carol for so fiercely protecting this study from those who attempted to water it down or even get rid of it over the more than 50 years.

There's another question we should be asking ourselves with all that we're learning. What are we doing with it? Are we just filling our brains with this information? Have we become hoarders of God's Word? That is *not* His will. Jesus gave the Apostles – and every believer after them - the great commission in Matthew 28, "*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*"

Our verse points out the target audience that is to benefit from our instruction – the weary. Do you know anyone who is weary? All I have to do is look in the mirror. I would imagine many of you could say the same thing. Life is hard, and the "joy" of aging isn't making it much easier, right? God's instruction – His Word – reaches out to the weary believer in:

- Matthew 11:28: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
- Isaiah 40:29: "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak."

Psalms 119:28 provides the cause **and** the solution to our weariness, "*My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word.*" The LORD, through His Word, gives us rest, power, and strength.

We are to pull from this instruction and make it available to a weary world. What is the underlying driver to the world's weariness? Jeremiah 9:5 confirms it, "*Friend deceives friend, and no one speaks the truth. They have taught their tongues to lie; they weary themselves with sinning.*" Romans reminds us that the wages of sin is death, so the path to this death is wearing out those whom have yet heard, or seen evidence, of our Savior Jesus.

If you know someone who is an unbeliever and is weary, draw on God's rest and power to give you a love and compassion for them. For those of us who may feel inadequate sharing Bible verses to the weary nonbeliever, don't let that weary you. If you simply show them kindness and grace – especially to ones you don't think deserve it, you are living out your Biblical instruction. There's an old saying that for every 100 people, one will read the Bible, while the remaining 99 will read the Christian. Let people see the love of God for them in how they see you love them like God loves you. If you do, there's hope for the weary.