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Substance of Prayer Meeting Address

given by our Pastor, on July 2, 1974

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Lesson. Isaiah 50.

The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary. Isaiah 50. 4.

Two things I wish to say immediately. The first will be obvious to all the dear friends, especially those who love a Prayer Meeting, because one feels if there is sufficient spiritual appetite and desire to be found at a Prayer Meeting and not neglect it, there is great evidence of deep exercise of soul before God. I feel surely if any person, whether younger or older, becomes deeply concerned about their souls, and deeply exercised concerning eternity and the things of God, and to obey Him, one of the first things we shall see is, (I know there are difficulties in the way, such as parents with young children) one thing that will be obvious is you begin to see these souls at the Prayer Meeting.

The first thing to say to you is, to those of you who are exercised by the Spirit and walk a deep path, a sorrowful path in great tribulation, and who have been able to enter into the subject matter of the hymns sung, (382. 356. 1021) so your religion is not superficial, it is not a toy, not formalism; it is stern and rugged, with temptations of Satan; and the depravity of your nature, with trials and difficulties, plagued and tormented; it is obvious to you that the key word 'weary' is a descriptive term for your state. It is like a diagnosis of your condition, not merely physical, you are weary in body, soul and spirit, so your whole person becomes intensely weary. I will say this; it will be increasingly so, and it will be particularly at various seasons you are so weary it appears you cannot continue another day or another hour. There is provision in the gospel for this state, and it is my sacred office to bring to you the message of the Saviour for precious souls.

I will say also to you that this chapter in Isaiah belongs largely to Christ, so it is a relevant verse we have brought to you; "The Lord God

hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary." This belongs primarily to Christ Himself. It is beautiful language: 'a word in season'! It will be most acceptable, sweet, appropriate, blessed, 'in season'. You are in a place to receive, appreciate, and value it. There must be many who are weary of sin, self, the devil, the world, and so on.

So this belongs first to Christ, and then to all ordained ministers,- a word spoken in season to the weary. For a few minutes I want to dilate on this wonderful word. "The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned." What is the meaning of it? Jesus Christ has the tongue of the learned? There are two facets. First, He is God, and consequently omniscient. He knows everything. He is wisdom and the power of God, so He has the tongue of the learned. By Him all things consist. From eternity He knew all about you, your lives and circumstances, There is a great Master plan, and the saints have gathered comfort from this; "O Lord God, thou knowest." It is not a matter of people, or yourself: no one knows. You do not know yourself. You look into your life and everything, and you do not fully understand. Certainly fallen creatures do not understand. You can look to God in all circumstances,- and this is very precious,- and say: "O Lord God, thou knowest." Men have misjudged you. They dealt severely with Job in all his adversity. They pondered his case and tried to reason it out. They thought Job must have been guilty of some heinous transgression: they had never been in the path he was in. You will find when you come to an advanced path there are many who do not understand because they have never been in it. They may come in it when you are in the realms of bliss. You can look up: He has the tongue of the learned, and you can say with sweet comfort; "O Lord God, thou knowest."

He is also the Man Christ Jesus, and in the whole of His path of humiliation He walked a rougher, darker, deeper path than His people will or can, and He knows because He has felt the same. He looks on you; the sorrow, loneliness, the felt desertion, the temptations you suffer, and He knows because He has walked this earth. He is the learned One for His people. He does not keep silence, and His speech is the everlasting gospel. That is the whole of His speech. So the glorious gospel of the blessed God is the speech of the tongue of the learned.

Let us come to the term 'weary'. Christ Himself knew what it is to be weary, only His is a special, unique form: it was sinless weariness. He was weary. I read in St John 4; "Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well." He was weary and He sat on the well. You are in blessed company: your dear Saviour knew physical weariness without sin. I would suggest to you if you are weary it would be good if you could sit on the well. You might sit next to Him and get the water of life and be refreshed. Let this be a word of comfort to you. Think of your Saviour; He knew what it was to be weary. Weariness we know.

The prophet Elijah had known wonderful success when the Lord had vindicated His cause in Israel. He was threatened by that powerful character, Jezebel: a wicked woman of tremendous power threatened the prophet. There are several characteristics of this. He felt he was the only one left. You feel so alone: I do. God only knows how lonely the pulpit is, and the path that leads to it. I am here with you, and here and there as the Lord sends me. I nearly always pick up choice souls in the path: they are alone; they have been stripped; their props have gone and theirs is a deep path. I find the choicest of God's people there because they are closest to the Saviour.

Elijah was so fatigued and he went to the wilderness and sat down under a juniper tree and said to the Lord; "It is enough." Have you ever said it? There are two ways of saying it: one is when the Lord fills your cup with divine blessing. But it seems sometimes as if the last drop goes in and you cannot take any more. He said: "now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.- Let me go." There is only one way to go honourably, that is for the Lord to take your life. If He takes you it is honourable. You have longed for Him to take you. "Let me come...and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away." - and so the devil does. Many people begin to realise the truth the Bible teaches that there is a devil. Where is he? where are the devils? They are in the earth's atmosphere and in the seas. No wonder we suffer! They are not in the pit: they will be judged, and consigned and confined to the pit presently. They are all around us, in the earth and the seas, and the devil and all the powers of darkness seek (this is not fanciful) they seek your life to take it away. No wonder you get weary! The foul spirits

may act through a medium. You never know when you are facing the devil unless the Lord makes it clear to you. One of the most remarkable of all things is, the devil spoke through Simon Peter, the chief disciple of the Lord's, and he tempted Christ when he said to Him as the Lord was telling them of His journey to the cross; "Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan." Satan was speaking in Peter; so you never know what medium Satan is allowed to use. You will know the truth of this.

We are weary because of sin and Satan. I have never felt before the almost constant activity, or the power of Satan to the degree I do now often. I have known it in the past in sustained attacks. The devil has said; "Now I shall stop that taking place." O these powers of darkness! Don't be surprised at the terrible conflict in this experience. You are not the only one. You get it in the day and in the night. You go to sleep and it is in your dreams. Elijah became weary: so do you; I do. There is a word in season. I will give you one or two. One is the beautiful word of the Lord Jesus. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Come unto me." Jesus ready stands to save you, welcome you. His arms are open to receive you to His breast. As the apostle wrote to the Galatians; "Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Another is, "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Amen.