

## WHERE AM I IN THIS PATH?

**Scripture:** Isaiah 50: 4-9

April 3, 2020

- The Cost of Discipleship
- Righteous Suffering
- The Suffering Servant
- Servant Leadership

All of these are key words as I sought understanding of this passage. The key participant has accepted The Lord's leading; *"a well instructed tongue to know the word that sustains the weary"*. The participant listens and accepts tortuous behavior without running away. He accepts the task. He knows that God will sustain him.

Where am I in this path? Where are you?

I have accepted responsibilities that make me shake my head and say, "What were you thinking?" All because I think that with God's help, I can make a difference. There are times when I feel overwhelmed. Times when I have to make difficult decisions about doing something for my own pleasure or following through with my responsibility. Jesus faced many of these same hard choices.

Each of us is part of a larger community. We are part of a local church, a charge, a parish, a District and an annual conference (for us, the West Virginia Annual Conference). We are called to seek God's counsel in pain-filled discussions, leading to sometimes painful decisions.

This passage asks us to listen, to open our ears, to accept some pain. As I read over many versions of this passage, I was reminded we have two ears and one mouth, making listening more important than speaking. Accepting some pain along the way may be part of the process. If God is for me, who can be against me?

**Prayer:** Most gracious and loving God, we live in uncomfortable times. We are being asked to make some uncomfortable choices into decisions. May I make my life reflect my decision to be a follower of Christ. In Jesus name. Amen

Jane Ensminger, Member, Crim Memorial UMC  
[ensmingr@frontier.com](mailto:ensmingr@frontier.com)