

GOD'S COMING SERVANT

(Isaiah 42:1-4)

I. Attention is called to the Servant (Isaiah 42:1).

- a. The word "behold" has to do with the calling of one's attention to a thing.
 - i. In this case, the Servant of God is to be the object of our attention.
 - ii. God, through the pen of Isaiah, is calling us to put our attention on His coming Servant.
- b. How do we know this passage is a look forward to the Lord?
 - i. Notice Matthew 12:15-21.
 - ii. Matthew, by inspiration, lets us know this is, without a doubt, a Messianic passage.
- c. This passage shows us that Jesus was the elect, or one chosen, by God.
 - i. God says He is "My Servant".
 - ii. There is also the phrase "mine elect".
 - iii. What is interesting about the Hebrew translated "mine elect" is that all 21 times it is used in the Old Testament, it always refers to something or someone chosen by Jehovah.
 - iv. God said that this Servant would be upheld by Him, which carries the idea of giving support.
 1. Think of the life of Christ and all the times that the Father supported Jesus.
 2. At times, it was only the Father and the Son because man forsook the Son, but the Father was always there for Him.
 3. The same is true for those who would be God's servants today (1 Peter 5:7).
 - v. God says that His servant would have His spirit on him.
 1. This is probably a reference to the miraculous manifestation that began with His baptism.
 2. This indicates that the servant of God would be able to carry out the task He was given.
 3. While you and I, if we are servants of God, do not have the Holy Spirit descending down on us at our baptisms, we do have all we need (2 Peter 1:3).
 - vi. God said that His delight was in this servant.
 1. On two occasions God audibly referred to Jesus as His beloved Son.
 2. The reason He was beloved of God is that He always did those things that pleased the Father (John 8:29).

- d. This verse draws our attention to the coming Servant who was chosen by God, would be supported by God, would have the spirit of God, and would delight God.

II. The attributes of the Servant (Isaiah 42:2-4).

- a. The Servant would possess humility.
 - i. Verse 2 says that He wouldn't come, drawing attention to Himself.
 - ii. Jesus had the power to perform miracles, but would not do it just for show.
 - iii. Jesus had large audiences for a time, but His message did not lend itself to keeping those crowds.
 - iv. He humbly allowed them to leave, not changing the message because it was not His to change.
 - v. Willingly coming to earth to be rejected shows the great humility possessed by our Lord.
 - vi. God's servant today is called to be humble (1 Peter 5:6).
- b. The Servant would possess compassion.
 - i. Notice verse 3.
 - ii. This would have been a common illustration.
 - iii. Reeds were common and known to be fragile.
 - 1. Reeds are easily bent or bruised.
 - 2. When they were, they were simply discarded and another was found for use.
 - iv. The smoking flax was the wick of a candle.
 - 1. When the oil ran low, the flax wick began to smoke.
 - 2. What people did was put out the lamp, refill the oil, and replace the flax.
 - v. God's servant would not break the bruised reed or quench the smoking flax.
 - 1. Jesus does not simply discard people.
 - 2. Instead, Jesus would show compassion.
 - 3. The coming Servant, later in Isaiah, is shown to have compassion with words (Isaiah 50:4; 61:1).
 - 4. We know these were spoken about Jesus because Jesus applied them to Himself (Luke 4:18).
 - 5. God's servants today are to have compassion as well (1 Peter 3:8).
- c. The Servant would possess determination.
 - i. God said His Servant would not fail nor be discouraged.
 - ii. The Servant was going to carry out all the commands of the Father.
 - iii. Notice the statement that Jesus made: "I must work the works of Him that sent me" (Jon 9:4).

- iv. It was imperative to Jesus to do the will of the Father and He was determined to do it.
- v. Jesus never let the sin that surrounded Him discourage Him to the point that He gave up and quit (Hebrews 12:3).
- vi. God's servant today must be determined to do the will of the Father as well (Colossians 3:2 – set means to seek or strive for).
- d. The Servant of God would possess the attributes of humility, compassion, and determination – all of which we must possess to be God's servants today.

III. **Accomplishment stated (Isaiah 42:1-4).**

- a. Three times in these four verses the word justice is found (vs. 1, 3, & 4).
 - i. Twice it is said the Servant would bring forth judgment.
 - ii. One time it is “till he has set judgment”.
- b. A better translation would probably be justice and it is found some newer translations.
- c. This is the accomplishment of the Servant – to bring God's justice to this world.
- d. The Hebrew word for justice has two main senses in which was used:
 - i. The first is the idea of sitting in judgment, hearing a case.
 - ii. The second is the rights belonging to someone and has to do with things being in a proper relationship to one's claims.
 - iii. The first idea is found in Ecclesiastes 12:14.
 - iv. The second is found in Exodus 23:6.
- e. Because of the work Jesus did, coming to earth, being tempted, and dying for us, Jesus is qualified to sit in judgment (Acts 10:39-42; 17:31).
- f. The second idea is also seen in the work of the Servant.
 - i. It is through the work of Jesus that things are brought into their proper relationship to our claims.
 - ii. Jesus brings us back into a proper relationship with God so that we can make proper claim to God's mercy and grace (Romans 3:24-26).
- g. God, through Isaiah, says that the Servant would do this for the earth and the isles that would wait for His law.
 - i. This is a reference to the Gentile world.
 - ii. What Jesus accomplished in His being God's Servant was for all men.
- h. Jesus paid the sin debt for all men and all who come to God through Him are declared righteous.
- i. It is through the death of Jesus, His sacrifice of self for our atonement, that we have the guarantee of forgiveness and a right relationship with Jesus.

Sermon idea from unknown source