

## The Gentle Servant

Isa 42:1-3 "Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth. He will not fail nor be discouraged, till He has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands shall wait for His law."

Last Sunday as we began to consider the nature and character of the promised Servant of God, the Elect One in whom God delights. We noted that God delighted in Him because He would indeed bring forth justice to the Gentiles, He would fulfill all that the Father purposed for Him to do. We now look back on this prophecy rejoicing that it has been fulfilled by our Lord. This morning we shall continue to look at this Servant of the Most High God and take special note of the gentle nature of this one we now call Jesus. It was Jesus Himself who said that He had not come to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. In these two verses this morning we shall see the gentle nature of our Lord, and the kindness he exhibits toward His church in the promise that He will not break a bruised reed, nor will He quench a smoldering wick. I trust that you will find great comfort as we look at the nature of this Servant as He rules over His Kingdom, and the gentle nature of His ministry to the citizens of His kingdom.

### A. The nature of the Servant's Kingdom - *He will not cry out, nor raise His voice*

1. Isaiah tells us that He would come in a quiet, gentle and humble manner
  - a. Consider His birth - Born in a cattle stall, laid in a feed trough
  - b. Consider to whom His birth was announce - to shepherds watching over sheep
  - c. Consider His kingly entrance into Jerusalem -lowly riding on the foal of a donkey
  - d. Consider His death - crucified as a criminal
2. His authority was displayed in a most quiet humble nature
  - a. He stands in sharp contrast to worldly conqueror who proclaims to all his deeds
    - (1) He told those He healed not to tell others of their healing
  - b. He ministered to the poor and downcast
    - (1) Chose men of humble origin - Tax collectors, and uneducated fishermen as His disciples
    - (2) Forgave the woman taken in adultery
    - (3) Forgave and then defended the harlot who washed His feet
  - c. When treated shamefully He responded in kindness.
    - (1) When reviled He did not revile in return (cf. 1 Pet. 2:23,24)
    - (2) Could have called 12 legions of angels
  - d. He did not come as some powerful conqueror forcing his views upon others
3. The King and His Kingdom is a Kingdom of great humility

*Matt 11:29-30 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*

4. His Kingdom to this day conquers with the written and spoken Word, not the sword
  - a. Mohamed conquered with the sword, but the church conquers with the softly spoken Word.
  - b. We speak the truth in love (cf. Eph. 4:15)

*2 Cor 10:3-4 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds*

- c. We simply proclaim the gospel, and are not ashamed for it alone is the power of God bringing men to salvation (cf. Rom 1:16)
5. This is what Isaiah is prophesying about when he writes, "He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, nor cause His voice to be heard in the street.
6. But let the ungodly world be warned, this gentle Lamb of God will come the second time in power and great glory

- a. He will come as Judge upon the throne of Heaven
- b. It is true at present in this Kingdom Age He comes in gentleness
  - (1) He can presently be rejected and despised
  - (2) He can presently be conspired against
  - (3) But God has set Him upon the high Throne of heaven - Ps 2
- c. Indeed He can presently even be mocked but a word of warning, God is NOT mocked.

*Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.*

B. His ministry is also of a gentle nature - *A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking wick He will not quench*

1. The bruised reed speaks of those who are broken and weak
  - a. It may be because of heavy trials in their life
  - b. It may be because of hurt they have suffered at the hand of others
  - c. It may be one who is struggling with sin in their life
2. I think of Peter after he had denied the Lord
  - a. Prior Jesus had told Peter that Satan desire to sift him as wheat, but I have prayed for you
  - b. He could have removed Peter from his office for his denying of Him at the cross
  - c. After telling Peter that he would deny Him three times, he simply said, when you come back - strengthen the brethren
  - d. Even after the denial, having questioned Peter's love, he simply said - feed my sheep
3. The smoking, smoldering wick could speak of those weak in the faith
  - a. I think of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus in complete dejection
  - b. Jesus could have responded, I told you plainly, shame on you
  - c. But instead after a word of rebuke calling them foolish ones and slow of heart, He opened the Scriptures to them
4. It may be one who, being discouraged by trial, and in prayer is asking "how long or Lord"

Ps 6:3 My soul also is greatly troubled; but You, O Lord — how long?

5. Jesus could have simply cast Saul of Tarsus into an eternal hell for his persecution of the church.
  - a. Instead He saved Him
  - b. And made Him His chosen vessel to bring salvation to the Gentile world
  - c. Remind you this morning, when you hated Him, He loved you (cf. Col 1:21-22)

CONCLUSION: How thankful we must be for having a tender and caring Redeemer

A Savior who left the glories of heaven above, and in humility came to redeem us from our sins

Especially when we must realize that not one of us here this morning deserve God's love

God could cast all of us into an eternal hell and be fully just

And indeed, even as His children we, like Peter, from time to time fail him

But take comfort, a bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench