

In Search of The Servant of God (Isa 42)

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Introduction: Have you seen this man?

- A. Today we are to conduct a search for one the God of heaven has described as a His servant.
 - 1. Many past generations have sought to find this man! (Acts 8:32-34)
 - 2. This passage was one of 4 passages in Isaiah known as “the servant songs.”
 - 3. When God tells us to “behold” we need to stop and look carefully. Who would have made this connection when Pilate spoke 700 years later? (Jn 19:5, 13-14)
- B. What do you think of when you hear one described as a servant?
 - 1. In the Roman mind you think of weakness and shame. Possibly an unwilling slave from a conquest.
 - 2. In the Jewish mind, a servant was not a desired position. Sitting on the right and left hand of the king was considered far better. (Mt 20:20-21, 24-28)

I. The coming Servant would be upheld by God’s Power (Isa 42:1)

- A. How can we know that one completely trusts God?
 - 1. This Servant would empty Himself and wholly stay within the words that God delivered to Him. (Jn 8:28-29; 12:27-28, 32-33)
 - 2. Trusting God involves hearing and obeying a understandable revelation.
 - 3. God’s ways would prosper in the hands of this Servant! (Isa 53:10)
 - 4. The first step of faith is to empty yourself so that you can hear. (Phil 2:7)
- B. God promised to hold the hand of this Servant. (Isa 42:6)
 - 1. The path to the cross was truly frightening without God.
 - 2. Jesus did not take a step without the direction of the Father. (Jn 5:19)
 - 3. He knew that God would never forsake Him. (Jn 16:32-33)
 - 4. The real struggle came in being assured that He clearly knew the path God had for Him. (Mt 26:39)
 - 5. God’s power will be given to empty servants! He will delight in them!

II. The coming Servant would provide justice and mercy for the outcast (42:6-7)

- A. This world has always been a “dog eat dog” world. The powerful will exploit and run over the helpless. (Ps 73:12, 16-17)
 - 1. The wicked are blind to the true blessings and in fact curse themselves! (Ecc 5:10; Isa 57:19-21)
 - 2. God opposes and brings down arrogant men that ignore His justice. God also will provide justice to the crushed through this servant! (Isa 42:3-4)
- B. This Servant would bring justice and mercy to the Gentiles. (Isa 42:1, 6)
 - 1. There was an old man that God allowed to see that servant. (Lk 2:25-32)
 - 2. This blessing of true justice will come through a revealed law (Isa 42:4)

3. God's mercy does not depend upon what unjust men do to us.
- C. The Gentiles were a powerless and helpless people before God. **(Eph 2:12)**
 1. The Jews had a far greater advantage and blessing.
 2. The Servant of God would be known for helping those who were despised and helpless. **(Isa 61:1-2, 9)**
 3. The moral and spiritual darkness left many blind. Imagine seeing for the first time! **(Isa 42:7)**
 4. Imagine being in this audience when the Servant of God read this very passage! Note the bitter anger of the proud Jews. **(Lk 4:16-21)**
 5. Do we remember what God has done for us, how we were made to see when blind?

III. This servant would be gentle to the weak (Isa 42:2-3)

- A. The proud only think of themselves and what will profit them.
 1. This Servant would be known for His gentleness in recovering the broken rejects of the world. Hurt people are often very fragile!
 2. Jesus did not draw attention to Himself in boisterous speech and actions.
 3. To find this Servant you would have to look closely. **(Isa 53:1-3)**
 4. The religious leaders of Jesus' day were looking out for themselves. They did not hesitate to look down on the helpless. **(Jn 10:11-14)**
- B. This Servant has the wisdom and power to rebuild lives.
 1. A "bruised reed" and "smoking flax" represent those on the fringe of collapse. This Servant can protect and lift up anyone!
 2. It is hard to understand how infinite power and be so gentle.
 3. This Servant cares and can rebuild the lives of any man! These blessings will come to the one who trusts and is willing to learn. **(Mt 11:28-30)**
 4. The Servants followers should reflect His character. **(Jn 13:34-35)**

IV. This servant will be our covenant. (Isa 42:6)

- A. Consider the awesome privileges of a covenant with God.
 1. A certain and defined relationship with God **(Ps 105:8-9)**
 2. God's mercy through His certain promises! **(Deut 7:9)**
- B. What are we doing with our covenant?
 1. Those who despise the covenant will suffer wrath. **(Heb 10:29-31)**
 2. It is through the blood of the covenant that Jesus is able to lead us. **(Heb 13:20-21)**

Conclusion: Have you found this servant? Let us remember where we came from!