

## Isaiah 42:1-25

### “God’s Servant, Our Savior”

In Isa 42, two servants come into focus. Both called/commissioned by God. One successful, the other unsuccessful. One fruitful & faithful, the other failed being unfaithful. One exalted to the highest prominence, the other punished.

The curtain closed on Ch 41 proclaiming the fact that *idols* are *nothing*. It draws back on Ch 42 w/*God’s Servant*, who is *everything*. Notice.

### Vs 1-4

Our passage opens w/*God setting His Servant on center stage & inviting the world to “Behold” Him. This One whom He will uphold, in whom His soul delights. Upon whom His Spirit rests, this One who will bring forth justice to the Gentiles... God says, “Behold Him!” Look at Him, learn of Him, scrutinize, analyze Him (w/a purpose, a desire & intent of not only being in awe of Him, but how we should yearn to become more like Him).*

& I just want to go ahead & let this proverbial cat out of the bag & tell you (in case you weren’t already aware) that the “Servant” that God is holding up here (for us to consider) is none other than J.C. Himself! We don’t even have to wonder about this because the Holy Spirit tells us plainly in Matt 12:15-21.

But you & me, \* we need to know that scripture *exhorts* us to study the Person, the work & nature of Jesus! As a believer you should not only want to *know* your Savior; you should want to know as much *about* your Savior as you possibly can!

Jesus said, *“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, (or learn “of” Me) for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”*<sup>1</sup> Jesus invites us to come to Him w/the purpose of learning from & of Him. In Matt 16 He said it this way, *“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”*<sup>2</sup> Jesus says, “If you have a desire to ‘come after’ Me (that is follow in My footsteps), deny yourself, take up your cross (death to the self-will) & follow (the idea is imitate) Me.” Jesus wants you & me to *be* like He is. \*

Have you ever noticed that you can generally tell when friends are close? You pick up on that fact because they share a lot of the same mannerisms. They *learn* from one another, follow *after* one another... So to w/me & you in Christ.

<sup>1</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Mt 11:28-29). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>2</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Mt 16:24). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

W/one obvious exception ☺. Jesus learns nothing *from us* & has *zero* interest in *imitating us* (praise God). This “learning of & being like” is a one-way learning curve w/the Lord ☺. But we’re to “Behold” Him, *follow* Him, we’re to learn *of* imitate & *Him*. – & In Isaiah 42, we learn a little bit about the nature of Jesus.

Before we jump into that let me give you a little bonus information (observation). We see the working of the Trinity right here in our present passage. We have God the Father speaking out about His Son (the Servant) & He declares that He has put His *Spirit* upon Him. Father, Son, Holy Spirit all present in the 1<sup>st</sup> Vs of Isaiah 42.

But w/that I’ve given you our 1<sup>st</sup> observation (or mark of identification) concerning the nature of Jesus. First & foremost, He would be a “Servant”. “Behold, My *Servant* whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights.” The 1<sup>st</sup> indicative aspect of the nature of J.C. would be that He was here *not only to save* but to *serve*. 1<sup>st</sup> & foremost He was here to serve His heavenly Father. Jesus said, “*For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*”<sup>3</sup> Jesus *served* His heavenly Father. Yes, He came to seek & to save you & me. But in so doing He was *serving* the Father. – For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son... Yes, the Lord would *save* us out of His great love for us... & in so doing He would *serve* the heart of His Father in heaven... Jesus was a *servant*. Leave Isa 42, turn quickly to **Phil 2** (Vs 3-8)

\* Ladies and Gentlemen: “*...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*”<sup>4</sup> Jesus didn’t come to make Himself great, but to give His life away. To place the needs of others above His own... & He said, “*For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.*”<sup>5</sup> I’m just going to trust that you’ve picked up on the fact that the essential element of being a servant is that of *obedience*...

“Behold, My *Servant*” (the One who obeys Me). Jesus would be perfectly obedient to the Father. He would be upheld *by* the Father, He would delight the Father & God would place His Spirit *upon* Him, *empowering* Him for service... The point in play here is this: If God *calls* you, He’ll equip you. If He enlists you, He’ll enable you. If He calls you *to* it, He’ll see you *through* it... & We should know that if the Holy Spirit dwells *in us*, if the Spirit of God rests *upon us*, then our heart should overflow w/love *for* God & that love will be displayed in our *service* (shown in our *obedience*) to God. \*

<sup>3</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Jn 6:38]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>4</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Mt 20:28]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>5</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Jn 13:15]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

“He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.” The ministry of this “Servant”, our Savior wouldn’t be limited to the nation of Israel. It would be global in its reach. He would *fulfill* the desire of God’s heart to reach the world where the nation of Israel would *fail*... The Jews had basically concluded that the Gentiles were really only good to stoke the fires of hell. But the heart of God was never to choose Israel to the *exclusion* of the world, but to use Israel to *reach* the world! Again, “For God so loved... the *world*.”

Being called in righteousness, the free gift of salvation was never meant to be limited to one nation. We’re *all* the offspring of Adam. We’ve *all* sinned & fall short of the glory of God. Therefore, we *all* qualify for the free gift of salvation by grace through faith. Jesus would succeed (& we’re so glad that He did) in extending God’s great salvation to *every* tribe, tongue & nation. As we read in 1<sup>st</sup> John, “*And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.*”<sup>6</sup>

\* “He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, Nor cause His voice to be heard in the street.” Jesus wasn’t worried about drawing attention to Himself or achieving some sort of celebrity status among the people. In fact, He was so seemingly ordinary that Judas had to identify Him at his betrayal. Jesus walked in humility; He didn’t assert Himself, but rather He maintained a disposition that was lowly (take My yoke & learn of Me, for I am gentle & *lowly* in heart).

& Again, this is the fruit or the characteristics of One upon whom the Spirit of God was at rest. How greatly does the mentality of Jesus seem to conflict w/so many Christians today? People looking for the spotlight, wanting the accolades, the “ooohs & ahs” of man. Jesus was never after the “Photo op”, chomping for a press release. In fact, most of His ministry was done in relative obscurity. On a mountain side, on the seashore, in or around the temple or in people’s homes. He wasn’t here to benefit Himself, but to bless, to build up, to encourage & serve others. He was content to know that He was about His Father’s business. God help us to be content being about our Father’s business. Not needing the attention of others. Satisfied in obscurity, in anonymity so long as our service brings God glory... \*

\* “A bruised reed He will not break, & smoking flax He will not quench.” We spoke on this not too long ago. This is a reference to the tender care & compassion of our Lord.

<sup>6</sup> [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (1 Jn 4:14). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Those who are weak, oppressed, depressed & hurting He doesn't brush to the side. Most leaders don't have time for the weak, they focus on the strong. The movers & shakers, the self-starters. (& I suppose in a business environment that may be advantageous). But it's not the agenda of the Kingdom of God.

When Jesus came across people who were bruised & hurting, wounded by the harsh realities of this life, He didn't finish them off by issuing the final crushing blow because He didn't have time to deal w/their drama... He stopped everything, *made the time* to bring healing & hope, restoration & renewal into their lives. He drew near to them & helped them in their time of need. Ps 34:18, **"The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit."**<sup>7</sup> \*

\*"& Smoking flax He will not quench." Think of a wick in an oil lamp. It's barely smoldering, not much life left in it, it's about to give up & give in. There are times our lives are like that. That once burning flame, that 1<sup>st</sup> love we had for the Lord is just barely smoldering, we're not far from giving up or giving in. Jesus comes along... He doesn't say, "Well, if that's all you got, if that's all you're going to offer you're really not any good to Me" & quench the last ember of life we have left.

- A father brings his demon possessed son to Jesus, "If You can do anything, please, have compassion on us & help us." Jesus didn't say, "If?' What's that supposed to mean? You came to *Me*; I didn't come to *you*..." No. He looked at him & said, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cries out through the tears running down his face, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" Do you remember what Jesus did? He said, "I believe; help my *unbelief*"? **"What kind of statement is that? I don't have time for this waffling, wavering, unable to commit kind of hogwash! You either believe or you don't! Now get out of My face!"** Is that what Jesus did? No! He was moved w/compassion for this man & his plight, his problem, this circumstance that had all but brought him to the point of giving up & He ministered to him, delivered his son & increased his faith. **"A bruised reed He will not break, & smoking flax He will not quench."**

Aren't you glad that our Savior is the kind of Shepherd who will leave the 99 to search for that 1 lost sheep that's strayed from the fold? Some people don't understand that, until they're the 1, then it's reason for rejoicing.\*

**Vs 4**

“Failure & discouragement”. Something I’m prone toward, but those words aren’t even in our Lord’s vocabulary (proverbially speaking ☺). Think of the job He has, the obstacles He has to overcome (even the tools [namely you & me] that He has to work with). Yet He will not fail nor be discouraged. Why? **Because He has all power & authority. He’s not limited by the weaknesses & failures that we bring to the table. & Time is coming... He will establish justice in the earth & the coastlands, (the far reaches of the earth) will wait for His word. The Lord will rule the world in righteousness & the whole earth shall be filled w/His glory.**

So let’s see how we measure up. We’re to “Behold” the Lord, “Learn from” & “Learn of” the Lord. \*Through the power of God’s Spirit, we’re to be growing, being transformed (as it were from glory to glory) that we might be *like* the Lord. What kind of Man was our Lord? #1 He was a Servant. How do you measure up in that department?

**Here are some things He *wouldn’t* do. He *wouldn’t* strive, quarrel, pine for attention or use His ability for personal publicity. He *wouldn’t* crush the weak or quench those with little life left in them. He *wouldn’t* kick a person when they were down. & He *wouldn’t* be discouraged in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds...**

Here's a few things He *does* do. He acts w/gentleness, tenderness & compassion. He brings justice to all & will usher in a reign of truth & righteousness over all the earth.

& This is the kind of heart the Lord would have us to emulate toward the people around us. That we would serve rather than looking to *be* served. **That we *wouldn’t* strive or seek celebrity status (only serving in the sphere “worthy” of all our talents & training) but just be content to be about our heavenly Father’s business (in humility). Be kind to those who are broken & hurting, don’t kick a person while they’re down.** Or just pass them by rather than stop to lift them up (you might write down Luke 10:25-37 & refresh yourself w/it later). & Pursue truth & righteousness rendering obedience to the Word of God. \*

### **Vs 5-9**

God says, “Just as sure as all the former things I’ve told you have come to pass, so to this word of My Servant, this One who will bring salvation & transformation to the world will happen as well.”

I love how God flashes His credentials back in Vs 5. It’s as if He anticipates the reader to see the overwhelming nature of the 1<sup>st</sup> 4 verses & the promises therein & say, “How could anyone guarantee such things?”

God says, “Look, I created the heavens & stretched them out. I spread forth the earth & all that comes forth from it. I give breath to the people on it, & spirit to those who walk on it.” The idea being, “If I can do all that, then fulfilling My promise about My Servant, Your Savior is not an issue.”

Then He begins to address J.C. directly. & How Vs like these must've encouraged Jesus when He was on the earth. Think of all the difficulties He was constantly confronted by... & No doubt when He would read passages like this He would be encouraged. “I, the Lord have called You in righteousness, & will hold Your hand (I am w/You, to love, guide & never leave You); I will keep You (sustain You) & give You as a covenant to the people (Jesus was the embodiment of the new covenant in His blood), as a light (the only source of truth & salvation) to the Gentiles.”

& God speaks of the purpose of His coming which would ultimately be fulfilled through the cross. “To open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison.” \* Jesus came to set captives free, to open the eyes of the blind (yes, He did that literally, physically, but its ultimate fulfillment is found spiritually). Jesus came to open our eyes to who He is in truth & to set us free from the bondage of sin (which holds us in darkness & leads to death).

It's interesting to listen to all this talk about “freedom” today. People want to be free to do whatever drug they feel so inclined to. They want to be *free* to engage in any kind of sexually perverted, abhorrent acts they desire. They don't understand, they dabble in those things & lean into those things in the name of freedom. The truth is, it leads to bondage. What you once felt “free” to do, you're now in bondage to. You can't stop the drugs, you're enslaved to alcohol, your appetite for perversion, rather than being satiated or satisfied only grows more & more. Sin doesn't *free* you, it *enslaves* you. But whom the Son sets free... is free indeed. In Christ you're free from the bondage of sin, & you live in the light of eternal life. \*

& Btw, though the interpretation belongs to Jesus, certainly there's *application* to all who are *in* Jesus. In Christ, God has called *you* in righteousness. By His Spirit He will uphold you, enable you, empower you & use you to bring the hope of the gospel into the lives of others. To see blind eyes open & captives set free. – Does it mean you'll never see tough times, experience problems or persecution? Of course not. It didn't mean that for Jesus or Moses or Daniel or the apostles (you get the idea). But it does mean that you can count on the faithfulness of God & if He's begun a good work in your life, He'll be faithful to complete it until the Day of Jesus Christ.

& While we're here, let's make sure & underline **Vs 8** (read). – This brings us back to that celebrity status that Christians can take to themselves. Subtly building a name for yourself through the things God is doing through your life. Touching the glory, taking the credit for the work that God has done... *Is it wrong to use the platform God gives you to reach as many people as possible? Certainly not! We should do all that we can to reach as many as we can! ... We speak of it from time to time. It's not necessarily about what we do, but why we do it. All honor, all praise, all blessing & glory belongs to the Lord & to Him alone!*

God says, "I will not give My glory to another." Wait, I have a question then. If God doesn't give His glory to another then riddle me this. How could Jesus pray in Jn 17 & say this, *"And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was."*<sup>8</sup> If the LORD will not give His glory to another, yet God the Father & God the Son share in glory... what must that mean? It means the LORD (YAWEH) is one God, 3 Persons. God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit.

### **Vs 10-13**

The 1<sup>st</sup> time Jesus came, He came as a Lamb to be slain for the sins of the world. & As a lamb before its shearers is silent so He opened not His mouth. But when He comes again, He'll come as the Lion of the tribe of Judah! At His 1<sup>st</sup> coming He was the self-sacrificing Savior. He came in humility. At His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming, He'll be a conquering King & He will go forth like a mighty man, He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war & He shall prevail against His enemies! He'll come in power & judgment.

& A new work is worthy of a new song! Sing to the Lord a new song, & His praise from the ends of the earth!

### **Vs 14-15**

\* God is certainly patient, isn't He? He's "held His peace" a long time. He's been still & "restrained" Himself. But His Spirit won't always strive w/man. Won't always plead w/man to be reconciled or to repent. *It's frightful to consider the fact that man (through sin) can exhaust the patience even of an infinite God. The day will come when God puts an end to man's rebellion & when that Day comes, He won't waste time. He will end the wicked rebellion of man & make right every wrong in the world.* Fear not little flock, for it's your Father's good pleasure to give to you the kingdom... That Day is coming. **\***(Notice)

<sup>8</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Jn 17:5] Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

**Vs 16-20**

As our time began I told you that this Ch brings 2 servants into focus for us. The Faithful One (J.C.) & the failed one. Jesus was faithful, Israel would fail... God is essentially says, "You've been given so much, but you can't see! You have My word, but you can't hear!" God had chosen them, spoken to them, given them His word. They had the priesthood, the rites of worship, they had it all! But they were blind to the things of God, deaf to the voice of God. "He came to His own & His own did not receive Him..." But as to where they would *fail* in God's plans for *them*, Jesus would *fulfill* God's plans for *Him*.

**Vs 21-25**

Listen, don't tune out on this last point. **(Close)** God says, "Israel is a people plundered, robbed, they've become prey & no one delivers... Why? **(Vs 24 read)**

God says, "I've done this. I've sought to chasten them, I've let their whole world 'burn to the ground' yet he did not know, he did not take it to heart." They don't get it, they won't respond to it.

How easy it is to blame everyone or everything around us for the tough times we find ourselves in. Be careful about excuses or blaming others. Think it through, it might be *your fault*! Perhaps you've been entertaining sin, allowing for compromise & God has sought to chasten you but you won't see it, won't take it to heart... & God is like, What do I need to do to provoke you to repentance? To return to Me?

God has given us His word, He's given us His Holy Spirit, His only begotten Son that we might be saved & set apart to Him & His purposes for our lives... So, let's bow our hearts & ask the Lord to renew our sight & to set our hearts fresh upon Him once again.

**Prayer Points:**

Father open our eyes that we might see You for who You are. That we might see Jesus for who He is. Surely You are our Holy, Righteous & Loving Father who is jealous for our love, our loyalty, our obedience. Give us hearts of repentance, renew our 1<sup>st</sup> love relationship w/You today, make us more like Jesus...

For God so loved you that He gave His only begotten Son *for* you. Don't turn a blind eye or a deaf ear to the gospel today. Turn from your sin, believe on the Lord J.C. & be saved from this wicked/perverse generation.