

Series: Isaiah Series 2024

Title: Who is Blind, but my Servant?

Text: Is 42: 18-21

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Place: SGBC, NJ

Isaiah 42: 18: Hear, ye deaf; and look, ye blind, that ye may see. 19: Who *is* blind, but my servant? or deaf, as my messenger *that* I sent? who *is* blind as *he that is* perfect, and blind as the LORD'S servant? 20: Seeing many things, but thou observest not; opening the ears, but he heareth not. 21: The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make *it* honourable. 22: But this *is* a people robbed and spoiled; *they are* all of them snared in holes, and they are hid in prison houses: they are for a prey, and none delivereth; for a spoil, and none saith, Restore. 23: Who among you will give ear to this? *who* will hearken and hear for the time to come? 24: Who gave Jacob for a spoil, and Israel to the robbers? did not the LORD, he against whom we have sinned? for they would not walk in his ways, neither were they obedient unto his law. 25: Therefore he hath poured upon him the fury of his anger, and the strength of battle: and it hath set him on fire round about, yet he knew not; and it burned him, yet he laid *it* not to heart. 43: 1: But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called *thee* by thy name; thou *art* mine.

Most commentaries say this whole passage is speaking *only* of the children of Israel who were blind and refused the Lord Jesus. It certainly does describe them. God gave the children of Israel his word and no one else. God gave them every advantage. Yet, without a work of grace in their hearts, they were deaf to hear God's law declaring them guilty due to Adam's transgression. They thought they could hear. They went about trying to establish their own righteousness by the works of their hands. They were blind but thought they could see. They thought they were perfect by keeping the law. Therefore, they would not and could not believe on Christ. When God sent judgment to them they laid it not to heart, they would not, could not, confess they were blind and deaf and needed Christ alone to make them righteous.

John 9: 39: And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind. 40: And *some* of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also? 41: Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.

Are you spiritually blind and deaf by nature? Christ said, "*If ye were blind*"—if you confess your total inability to give yourself life, to make yourself see, to make yourself righteous and holy—confess your need of Christ to be all your Salvation—"ye *should have no sin.*" If you can confess it, it is because Christ has already given you life and sight and hearing. If that is so then in and by Christ you have no sin.

But Christ also came that *those who boast they can see might be made blind.* Those who boast that by their will they gave themselves life and by their works they made themselves righteous and holy, they have rejected Christ entirely. If one aspect of salvation is up to you then you have rejected Christ entirely. For those who say "*We see*"—he says, "*Therefore, your sin remaineth.*"

So certainly this text describes those in Israel. But it does not describe them *only*!

Isaiah 42: 18: Hear, ye deaf; and look, ye blind, that ye may see.

This chapter began with God's command to look, to behold Christ Jesus his Righteous Servant.

Isaiah 42: 1: Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, *in whom* my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. 2: He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. 3: A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. 4: He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.

Isaiah 42: 18: Hear, ye deaf; and look, ye blind, that ye may see.

Speaking of the Lord Jesus Christ, God's righteous servant, the LORD says

Isaiah 42: 19: Who *is* blind, but my servant? or deaf, as my messenger *that* I sent? who *is* blind as *he that is* perfect, and blind as the LORD'S servant? 20: Seeing many things, but thou observest not; opening the ears, but he heareth not. 21: The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make *it* honourable.

Proposition: Christ came to magnify the law and make it honorable. In order to do so, there were certain things the Lord Jesus had to be blind and deaf to.

CHRIST IS GOD'S RIGHTEOUS SERVANT

Isaiah 42: 19: Who *is* blind, but my servant? or deaf, as my messenger *that* I sent? who *is* blind as *he that is* perfect, and blind as the LORD'S servant?

Christ Jesus is the Messenger—the Angel—of the Covenant—the Messenger God sent.

Malachi 3: 1: Behold, I will send [John the Baptist] and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord...shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant,...saith the LORD of hosts.

He is God's Perfect Servant—*The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable.*

CHRIST DID NOT SEE AND HEAR AS SINFUL MAN HEARS AND SEES

Isaiah 42: 19 Who is blind, but my servant? or deaf, as my messenger *that* I sent? [Turn to Isaiah 11]

Isaiah 11: 1: And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: 2: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; 3: And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: 4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. 5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

Christ Jesus used righteous judgment.

When it came to the devil, Christ was blind and deaf to Satan's temptations. The Lord Jesus had gone 40 days and nights without food and was hungry. The devil said,

Matthew 4: 3: If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. 4: But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

We would have failed right then and there. Then the devil took him up on a pinnacle of the temple and challenged him

Matthew 4: 6: And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. 7: Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

The proud heart would make sinners say, "I'll show you." This next temptation would have surely destroyed us.

Matthew 4: 8: Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9: And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. [how many times have we been tempted by far less] 10: Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. 11: Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

When it came to his natural relatives, our Savior was blind and deaf to those he loved who would have turned him from the work the Father sent him to accomplish. He was preaching the gospel,

Matthew 12: 47: Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. 48: But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? 49: And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! 50: For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Even his own apostles could not turn him from his work. Our Savior was blind and deaf to the desires of his apostle when he tried to turn him from the cross.

Mark 8: 31: And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32: And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him. 33: But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.

When it came to the slanders of men, Christ was deaf to the accusations and slanders of men. He ignored them.

Psalms 38: 12: They also that seek after my life lay snares *for me*: and they that seek my hurt speak mischievous things, and imagine deceits all the day long. 13: But I, as a deaf *man*, heard not; and *I was* as a dumb man *that* openeth not his mouth. 14: Thus I was as a man that heareth not, and in whose mouth *are* no reproofs. 15: For in thee, O LORD, do I hope: thou wilt hear, O Lord my God.

Matthew 27: 12: And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. 13: Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee? 14: And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.

1 Peter 1: 23: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed *himself* to him that judged righteously:

Isaiah 53:7: He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

For any who want to boast that they have kept the law, have you done any of this perfectly?

When it came to the obstacles of the cross, Christ was as a blind man when it came to the things he must suffer on the cross—bearing the sin of his people and the curse, being forsaken of God in divine judgment.

John 12: 27: Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. 28: Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, *saying*, I have both glorified *it*, and will glorify *it* again.

Isaiah 50: 6: I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. 7: For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed. 8: *He is* near that justifieth me; who will contend with me?

This is the *perfect faith* in God the Father that it took *to magnify and honor the law*—to declare the righteousness of God—to declare God is just and the Justifier of those he gives faith in Christ. He saw the joy God set before him.

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Brethren, let nothing turn you from Christ, from following Christ. Ignore the devil, natural relatives, brethren who would turn you from Christ, the slanders of men, and the obstacles before us. Look to Christ who is the joy set before us and follow Christ and continue speaking of Christ and his works.

FROM HIS THRONE IN GLORY, HE MAGNIFIES THE LAW, BY BEING BLIND AND DEAF TO CERTAIN THINGS

Isaiah 42: 19...who is blind as *he that is* perfect, and blind as the LORD'S servant? 20: Seeing many things, but thou observest not; opening the ears, but he heareth not. 21: The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he [hath] magnified the law, and made *it* honourable.

On the cross, Christ accomplished the redemption of those given him in divine election. He became Perfect. He became the perfect Captain of our Salvation. Therefore, God raised him to his right hand as the Perfect Captain of our Salvation—"he is perfect" and by his one offering, he *perfected forever them that are sanctified*.

Hebrews 2:10: For it became him, for whom *are* all things, and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Christ is the perfect Author and Finisher of faith. He is the Perfect Righteousness and Holiness of each one he represented.

Hebrews 1:3...when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Hebrews 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*....26:...now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he [hath] magnified the law, and made it honourable. Since he justified all his people, since he made us the righteousness of God in him, right now from his throne in glory, *Seeing many things, but thou observest not; opening the ears, but he heareth not.* Christ sees the sins in his people's flesh but because he made his people righteous and put away our sins, he magnifies the law and honors it even now by observing not—that is, he will not charge one he made righteous.

Numbers 23: 21: He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel:

There is yet sin in his people—in our flesh dwells no good thing—but because Christ fulfilled the law in righteousness for his people we are complete in him. Therefore, he does not behold iniquity nor see perverseness in his people.

Jeremiah 50:20: In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve.

He magnifies and honors the law by *opening the ears, but he heareth not.* For his lost sheep, he shall send the gospel to each one he redeemed and speak effectually this command, *Hear, ye deaf; and look, ye blind, that ye may see.*"

How can a dead man be told to hear and a blind man be told to see? God took Ezekiel into a valley of dry bones. They were very dry—separated, dead, dry bones. God told Ezekiel say to these bones, "Live! and pray to me to send the Holy Spirit." God said, they shall know the Lord and glorify me for having done it. God did it. They lived. They united together. God

declared these bones are a picture of mine elect, my redeemed, what I do in my people. If you can confess you are blind—your total inability and your need for Christ—it is by the Lord giving you life, sight and hearing to believe on Christ.

For his saints when we sin or need correction, “*He opens our ears.*” He turns us to behold Christ on the cross bearing our sins away—and by this he corrects and makes us willing to follow him. BUT WHEN IT COMES TO ANYONE ATTEMPTING TO ACCUSE AND CONDEMN HIS PEOPLE—HE MAGNIFIES AND HONORS THE LAW BY BEING DEAF TO THE CHARGE, HE WILL NOT HEAR THE CHARGE. When the devil raised up the law of Moses to condemn Joshua the high priest for his sins—and Joshua had committed sins—yet Christ said,

Zechariah 3: 2: And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: *is* not this a brand plucked out of the fire? 3: Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel. 4: And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment. 5: And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD stood by. [and that is how he granted repentance to Joshua]

Romans 8: 33: Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect? *It is* God that justifieth. 34 Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Psalm 103:12: As far as the east is from the west, *so* far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

He covered us in his righteousness and filled us with his holy Spirit so that he sees no sin in his people. He says

Song of Songs 4:7: Thou art all fair, my love; there is no spot in thee.”

Ezekiel 16:14:...thy beauty:...[is] perfect through my comeliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord GOD.”

Psalm 32: 1: Blessed *is he* whose transgression *is* forgiven, whose sin *is* covered. 2: Blessed *is* the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit *there is* no guile.

Oh, may he be pleased to make us deaf and blind to the things which he is deaf and blind to.

2 Corinthians 4:18: While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

May the Lord make us blind to our own will and wants. Blind to every obstacle before us and enemies who oppose us. Blind to offenses and sins in our brethren. Make us speak the good news to brethren and cover their sin as Shem and Japeth covered Noahs. May the Lord makes us deaf to rumors and slander and accusations. May the Lord make us speak this gospel to one another and see the unseen by faith, those are eternal things.

Amen!