

In Search of the Servant of God
An Overview of the Servant Songs of Isaiah
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Introduction: Have you seen this man?

- A. This morning we are to conduct a search for one the God of heaven has described.
 - 1. Many past generations have asked this question. (**Acts 8:32-34**)
 - 2. This passage was one of four passages found in Isaiah know as “the servant songs.” (**Isa 42:1-7, 49:1-13, 50:4-11, 52:13-53:12**)
- B. When God tells us to “behold” we need to stop and look carefully. (**Isa 42:1**)
 - 1. Who could have ever imagined that 1000 years later that Pilate would display a bloody prisoner that would be this very servant! (**Jn 19:5, 13-14**)
 - 2. Let us consider some major points from each of these passages.

I. This servant shall reach out to the Gentiles (Isa 42:1)

- A. There was an old man that God allowed to see that servant. (**Lk 2:25-32**)
 - 1. Imagining one to bring together both Jew and Gentile seemed impossible.
 - 2. Over and over this theme is repeated in these servant songs. (**Isa 49:5-6**)
- B. The Gentiles were in fact a powerless and helpless people before God.
 - 1. The Servant of God would be known for helping those who were despised and helpless. (**Isa 61:1-2, 9**)
 - 2. Imagine being in this audience when the Servant of God read this very passage!
Note the reaction of the audience. (**Lk 4:16-21**)

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

- A. Contrast Jesus with the leaders of His day. (**Mt 12:15-22**)
 - 1. To trust Jesus means that you open your heart and let Him in.
 - 2. He can take the weakest and most fragile individual and sustain him.
- B. Jesus was always successful to those who stay with Him. (**Jn 10:14, 27-30**)
 - 1. We tend to avoid the weak and praise the strong.
 - 2. Where do you find Jesus the great Physician? (**Mt 9:12-13**)

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

- A. Consider the awesome privileges of a covenant with God.
 - 1. A certain relationship with God (**Ps 105:8-9**)
 - 2. God’s mercy (**Deut 7:9**)
 - 3. We can know the “secret of the Lord.” (**Ps 25:10, 14**)
- B. What are we doing with our covenant? (**Heb 10:29-31**)

IV. This servant will reach out to the rejected and despised castaways

- A. Jesus was to bring back and reunite Israel. (**Isa 49:5**)
- B. Jesus would unite Jew and Gentile! (**Isa 49:6**)
 - 1. The first seemed utterly impossible. This verse tells us that is nothing compared to what God will do through His servant!
 - 2. Consider the struggle of having Jew and Gentile together. (**Eph 2:11-16**)
 - 3. The greatest display of the power of God is in the changing of men’s hearts.
- C. Jesus was a hated reject of the world. (**Isa 49:7**)

1. This is no surprise to those who read the Bible. (**1 Pt 2:7-8**)
 2. Jesus did not come in a way to impress men with their artificial standards.
- D. His followers would also be hated rejects of the world. (**Isa 49:8-9**)
1. They would be in prison to sin and in darkness without hope.
 2. When they followed this servant they would be opposed and attacked.
- (**Jn 15:18-21**)

V. *The power of the Servant begins with His ear (Isa 50:4-5)*

- A. His tongue indeed was powerful. (**Rev 1:16**)
1. He awed those who studied greatly. (**Mt 13:54; Lk 2:46-47**)
 2. He knew how to preserve those who were weak. (**Isa 42:2-3**)
 - a. Powerful men tend to crush or dismiss the weak.
 - b. Learned men may not know *how* to speak.
 - c. Our Lord wants us to know His power and wisdom awaits us!
- (**Mt 11:28-29**)
- B. His tongue was guided by His ear.
1. The Servant's heart was opened to God. He really trusted God!
 2. It is a very risky thing to completely open your heart (ear) to another.
- C. Are you teachable?
1. Are you willing to hear? (**Mt 13:9, 14-15**)
 - a. This simple truth is ignored by many! (**Prov 18:13; Acts 23:35**)
 - b. This is Satan's first weapon in defeating the gospel. (**Acts 17:5**)
 2. Do you have a commitment to principle?
 - a. Some make sincerity an end within itself. It is not. (**Acts 23:1**)
 - b. Far too many "stand" where they do as a result of **weighing consequences** rather than **weighing the truth**.
 3. Are you maintaining that commitment?
 - a. The worst listeners I have faced are Christians with great knowledge.
 - b. Do you teach others? Are you teachable? (**Rom 2:21-24**)

VI. *The Servant had a mission in which He would never be ashamed. (Isa 50:6-7)*

- A. The mission God gave Him placed Him in harms way.
1. He was scourged.
 2. He was slapped, had his hair pulled out and was spit upon. (**Mt 26:67**)
- B. He was not in any way ashamed but determined.
1. He had a face like flint. (**Ezek 3:8-9**)
 2. How many have tried to make you ashamed of what is right?
 3. Can you see what the disciples saw? (**Lk 9:51-53; Jn 11:16**)
 4. For what purpose has God placed *you* here on this earth?
- C. Do not be ashamed of good things.
1. The gospel. (**Rom 1:16**)
 2. Faithful Christians. (**2 Tim 1:8**)
 3. Of Christ and His will. (**Luke 9:26**)

VII. *The account of the Servant will be one of extremes (52:13-15)*

- A. The Servant would be almost unidentifiable as a man. (**52:14; Psa 22:6**)

1. Consider the bloody pulp that Pilate presented to the crowd. (**Jn 19:1-3**)
2. What would you think of such a person? Imagine the thought of this being God!
- B. The Servant would be exalted to the very highest place. (**52:13, Ps 24:7-10**)
- C. The account of the Servant will bring extreme reactions in all men
 1. They will hear of that which before was inconceivable.
 2. Even the proud will close their mouths and marvel.
 3. Who will actually believe this report?

VIII. The appearance of the Servant caused many to despise Him (53:1-3)

- A. The Servant in fact had the “arm of the Lord” with Him. (**Isa 53:1**)
 1. Too many people assume they know where the “arm of the Lord” is working.
 2. God reminds us it has to be “revealed.”
 3. Where does God’s power work today? (**Rom 8:36-37; 2 Cor 12:9-10**)
- B. The Servant would be a “root out of dry ground.” (**53:2**)
 1. This was a distinctive description of the Messiah. (**Isa 11:1, 10**)
 2. The Romans would also struggle at this Messiah from the Jewish nation.
- C. Men wrote off the Servant because of His suffering. (**53:3-4**)
 1. We all tend to judge men by appearance. What would Jesus look like if He came today?
 2. Jesus made it very clear that His followers would not be caught up in the things that men find to great. (**Mk 10:42-44**)
 3. Are we kidding ourselves when we claim to be his follower? Are we judging others by the same standards men judged the Lord? (**Jas 2:1-7**)

IX. The Servant was a sacrifice for the sins of all men (53:4-6)

- A. His mind was focused on taking care of us. (**Jn 11:27-33**)
 1. The day would come where we can know Him and come to Him.
 2. Does Jesus carry your sorrows and our griefs? (**Mt 11:28-29**)
- B. The Lord placed our sins upon Him.
 1. He paid a price that I could not pay. (**2 Cor 5:21**)
 2. If you become a follower of the Lord the issue of forgiveness is your focus.
 3. Have you forgotten this forgiveness? (**2 Pt 1:9**)

Conclusion: His suffering led to our blessing! Have you found Him?

1. How do stripes heal? How does chastisement bring peace? (**Rom 5:1**)
2. We must never forget the price that was paid for our peace with God. (**2 Cor 5:14-15**)

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For the audio, PowerPoint and Sermon Outlines of the meeting as well as the complete series on the Servant Songs of Isaiah please visit:

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