

In Search of the Servant of God (Part 1)

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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.” We will look at the first one today. (**Isa 42:1-7**)
 - 3. When God tells us to “behold” we need to stop and look carefully.
 - 4. 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**)
- 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**)
 - 3. Are we any different in our thinking? Be honest!

I. God upholds this servant (Isa 42:1)

- A. If God upholds you then you have infinite power on your side.
 - a. You never want to oppose the hand of the Lord. (**Isa 19:16-17; 25:10-12**)
 - b. The truly wise man sees how frail and weak he really is.
- B. God’s power is only for a certain path. (**Psa 17:5**)
 - a. Those that pursue integrity God will uphold. (**Psa 41:12-13**)
 - b. How is it possible for rebellious man to walk in the path determined by God?
- C. Jesus became totally dependant upon the Father. (**Ps 22:10-11**)
 - 1. Here is the level of His commitment. (**Jn 5:19**)
 - 2. That dependency was severely tested. (**1 Pt 2:23**)
 - a. Have you ever struck back at another because of their evil?
 - b. Do you trust God this much? Only His servant would do this.
 - 3. If you want to have God uphold you then you must commit yourself to His Path. The greatest test of this is in the garden. (**Mt 26:39**)

II. God delights in this servant (Isa 42:1)

- A. This delight was no accident. He sought the pleasure of His Master. (**Jn 8:29**)
- B. A revealing statement is made about Jesus and His work in a prophecy made hundreds of years before His birth. (**Isa 53:10**)
 - 1. The phrase "pleasure of the Lord" is the same thing as saying "the will of God."
 - 2. As a servant of God this should be the prime motivation of my life! (**Gal 1:10**)
- C. This term is used to express the power of earthly kings.
 - 1. A letter was sent to the Persian king Darius. (**Ezra 5:17**)
 - 2. The authority of Joseph was expressed this way. (**Psa 105:21-22**)
 - 3. In a dictatorship you are under the absolute mercy of the king's "pleasure."
- D. God wants each of us to know that we are absolutely dependent upon "His pleasure."
 - 1. We must know this about our God! (**Isa 46:9-11**)
 - 2. God named the king Cyrus before his birth as the one who will order the Jew's

return from captivity. (**Isa 44:28**)

3. God's judgment of Babylon is also described in these terms. (**Isa 48:14**)

4. The only issue in my life is where I find myself in the "Pleasure of the Lord."

III. This servant shall reach out to the Gentiles

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 by the prophets. (**Isa 49:6**)

B. The Gentiles were in fact a powerless and helpless people before God.

1. The Jews had a 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. Imagine being in this audience when the Servant of God read this very passage! (**Lk 4:16-21**)

4. What was the response of the audience?

IV. 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**)

3. What is needed to restore the weak? (Consider the woman at the well!)

V. This servant will bring forth Justice (Isa 42:3-4)

A. This servant would have justice taken away from Him in the courts of men. (**Acts 2:22-23; 8:33**)

1. His justice was taken away – but in His hands justice will never fail.

2. The need of justice is emphasized in God's word. (**Ex 23:2; Deut 16:19; Psa 37:28**)

B. God's law is based upon principles that are true and if applied will result in justice. (**Psa 103:6; Amos 5:15, 24**)

C. The sacrifice of this servant will satisfy the justice of God. (**Rom 3:26**)

1. Many will be released from the prison house (**Isa 42:7**)

2. This justice will be found in a great law that will be spread.

VI. 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?

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? You do not need to tell us. We will see it!