

“My Servant” (Part 2)

Isaiah 43:5-25 (text v. 25 cf. 57:11; Jer. 12:11; Mal. 2:2).

Isaiah 42 can be divided into five parts:

1. The CHARACTER of God’s Servant (vs. 1-4). This was studied in the last lesson.

➡ In this lesson we will continue with...

2. The CALLING of God’s Servant (vs. 5-9).

3. The COMING of God’s Servant (vs. 10-16). As it relates to His enemies and to His people (Israel).

4. The COGNITION of God’s Servant (vs. 17-21).

5. The CHAGRIN of God’s Servant (vs. 22-25).

I. The CALLING of God’s Servant (vs. 5-9).

A. God the CREATOR (v. 5). Creation, not evolution. Heavens (plural—3 heavens).

- “...*the earth, and that which c me h fi ...*” (cf. Gen. 1:20-26; 2:7).
- “...*gi e h b ea h unto the people upon it...*” (cf. Job 12:10; Dan. 5:23; Acts 17:25).

B. God the COMMISSIONER of His Servant (v. 6).

- Jesus will fulfill the mission Israel failed to fulfill—To be “*a LIGHT of the Gentiles*” (49:6; 60:3; Acts 13:47).

C. God the CAREGIVER of His Servant (v. 6).

- Verse 6 may also be applied devotionally to a Christian—**Called** in the righteousness of Christ... **Held** in God’s hand... **Kept** until the day of redemption (2 Tim. 1:12; 1 Pet. 1:5).

D. God the COVENANT-KEEPER (v. 6 cf. Luke 2:32; Acts 26:23).

➡ v. 7—Christ’s ministry—**Healed** the blind (three times). Jesus is the only person who healed the blind (John 9:32)... **Released** captives (Eph. 4:8); **Delivered** those in darkness (Mt. 4:16; Luke 1:79; Eph. 5:8; Col. 1:13; 1 Pet. 2:9); **Freed** prisoners from prison house (Acts 16).

➤ vs. 8-9—Things God reserves for Himself: His glory... His praise... His ability to tell the future.

II. The COMING of God's Servant (vs. 10-18).

➤ Context is second advent of Christ (vs. 11-16). Five things connected with the second advent of Christ:

- A. Newness—The Lord's coming will usher in "*new things*" (v. 10; Rev. 3:12; 5:9; 14:3; 21:1-5).
- The "*new things*" (v. 9) need a "*new song*." A man's singing should change after he knows the Lord. He will "*sing unto the Lord*"—Does the Lord accept what you are singing?
 - Universal worship of the Kingdom (v. 11). "*Kedar*" is in Arabia (near Sela / Petra). Even the Arab nations will sing praise to Jesus Christ when He returns.
- B. God will be glorified (v. 12 cf. *Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake.* —Ps. 115:1)

➤ All the Glory Belongs to Jesus! [Deflecting the Praise to God]

Dean Smith, who coached North Carolina's basketball team, instituted what was called "point to the passer" as a rule for his players. Whenever a player scored, he was to point to the teammate who assisted with the basket.

Christians need to recognize they are enabled only by God's grace (1 Cor. 15:10; Gal. 6:14). Therefore give Him the glory for whatever He does through them.

It is often seen in football today, when a player scores a touchdown, he will point to the heavens acknowledging God's help in his ability to make the play.

Don't forget what happened to Herod— "*And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory*" (Acts 12:23).

- C. Enemies defeated (v. 13). I would not want to be one of God's enemies. I'm glad I'm on the Lord's side. When God's wrath is

cut loose, I would rather be *behind* the Lord and following Him than in front of Him (cf. Rev. 19:14).

- Change in the narrative—Verses 10-13 Isaiah is speaking of the Lord. In verse 14, the Lord speaking Himself in the first person.
 1. God's patience—God held His peace and restrained His wrath for about 2,000 years. He watched and put up with man's wickedness for a long time (2 Pet. 3-10). [Think of all the wickedness God has seen over the last 2,000 years, and it gets worse everyday!]
 2. God's wrath—Eventually, God's patience will wear out. His anger will be turned loose, like a woman about to give birth (vs. 14-16 cf. 43:24; 15:6; Mal. 2:17)! [ILLUS. Pent up pressure is finally released. Like an opening a can of Coke after it has been shaken for about a minute!]
- D. World-wide famines (v. 15 cf. Ezek. 38:19-20; Rev. 16:3-4, 18-20). No rain in the Tribulation Period for 3½ years (Rev. 11:3-6).
- E. Israel's spiritual blindness (vs. 16-17—*“they/them”* doctrinally is Israel). They are blind to the ways of God (Rom. 11:25; 2 Cor. 3:14-16; John 9:39-41).
 - Today we live in a darkened and crooked world (Phil. 2:15). When the Lord comes back, He will straighten everything out!
 - v. 16—Devotionally, God can enlighten a darkened mind and straighten out a crooked life!
- v. 17—When the Babylonian captivity was turned back Israel were cured of it's idolatry. Idol worship, that was so prevalent in Israel was no longer a problem after they returned from captivity.
- v. 18—God calls to Israel to listen and look. Israel is not seeing God's blessings. She's not hearing what God is saying. Blindness is made worse since it is self-imposed (Isa. 26:11; Acts 28:27). No one is more blind than the one who *will not* see!

III. The **COGNITION** of God's Servant (vs. 19-21).

Some interpret “*my servant*” here as Israel (cf. 41:8), who are blind to their own sins and deaf to God’s voice (cf. Jer. 5:21; Mk. 8:18). However, the context indicates God is still speaking of His servant, Jesus Christ (v. 1-4), who is perfect (v. 19) and pleases God (v. 21).

A. Blind Justice. In judgment, Jesus, God’s Servant, is “*blind*” and “*deaf*” (v. 19). In what way is Jesus “*blind*” and “*deaf*” (see comments at Isaiah 11:3-5). Jesus is *not influenced* by what He sees, *nor swayed* by what is said or excuses that are offered.

- During Christ’s earthly ministry, Jesus often appeared *disinterested* in what men said. *Disinterested* does NOT mean “not interested.” It simply means Jesus regarded not the person of men (Mt. 22:16; Mk. 12:14).

1. What a man sees or hears can be a hinderance to “*righteous judgment*.” Jesus said, “*Judge NOT according to the appearance...*” (John 7:21-24).

- Looks can be deceiving. What you see may be wrongly interpreted and what you hear may be untrue.
- Most rearview mirrors have this statement: “Objects in mirror are closer than they appear.” When a person “sees” a certain thing he forms an opinion based on what he sees. You are influenced by what you see.
- The statue of “Lady Justice” is blindfolded indicating justice is blind.

Dr. Tom Malone used to tell about Arthur McVane. By all “appearances” Arthur McVane was very poor. If you saw him on the street you’d think he was a homeless, scruffy bum in need of a bath. Yet, Arthur McVane was a very wealthy man that God used to fund Midwestern Baptist College [see <https://avhughes.com/on-entertaining-strangers/> — <https://avhughes.com/on-entertaining-strangers-part-2/>]

2. When dealing with people you cannot know exactly what is in their heart. Only God can judge without being influenced by what He sees or hears. God looks on the heart (1 Sam. 16:7).

B. "...well pleased" (v. 21—"The Lord is WELL PLEASSED for his righteousness sake..." Cf. Matthew 3:16—"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am WELL PLEASSED.")

- Jesus magnified and made the law honorable by living up to it. Whenever man breaks God's law he dishonors it (and himself).

IV. The CHAGRIN of God's Servant (vs. 22-25).

A. What happened (v. 22)? "BUT this is a people..." in contrast to Christ.

- "...robbed and spoiled" and held captive by the Babylonians and Assyrians. "None saith, Restore"—They felt abandoned. No one seemed to care.

B. Who will heed (v. 23)? Who is going to pay attention to these things?

- The question relates "for a *time* *come*." God is issuing a warning about what is going to happen to Israel in the future.

C. Who did it (v. 24). God turned Israel over to be robbed and defeated.

D. Why God did it (vs. 24-25)? It was God because of Israel's sin and disregard of His ways.

- Consequences of not giving heed to God's judgment (v. 25). [The reference of "setting him on fire... and it burned him" may be a prophecy of the holocaust in WW2.]

1. "... *he laid i* *he* ." (cf. Isa. 57:11; Mal. 2:2). Israel is stubborn. They did not take God's warnings seriously. The chastening of the Lord did not cause them to repent or return to Him. They continue to ignore why they were in the mess they were in.

2. The severity of God's judgment will be according to a people's opportunities and accountability. Take heed, America! To whom much is given, much is required.

➡ Some things we must take to heart:

1. The WORKS of God

2. The WORSHIP of God.
3. The WILL of God.
4. The WRATH of God.

SUMMATION: Isaiah 42 describes...

1. The SIGNIFICANCE of God's servant (vs. 1-9)
2. The SINGING of God's praise (vs. 10-12)
3. The SHOUT of God's victory (vs. 13-17)
4. The SILENCE to God's warnings (vs. 18)
5. The SEVERITY of ignoring God's warning (vs. 22-25).