

(Topics and Lead-in Below)

See the Servant

Isaiah 42:1-4

♩ = 52

Dm Am⁷ Am Dm C/E F C

1. See the Ser - vant Ris - ing from the heart of God.
2. See the sta - ble. See the dirt and dark - ness there.
3. Hear Him pray - ing, Bow - ing to His Fa - ther's will.

Dm Am⁷ Am Dm Am⁷ Dsus Dm

See Him com - ing With noth - ing of His own.
See a ba - by With noth - ing of His own.
Watch Him dy - ing, As si - lent as a Lamb.

Dm Am⁷ Am Dm C/E F C

Feel His Spir - it, Spir - it of the Liv - ing God,
See Him heal - ing, Just a sim - ple car - pen - ter.
See Him ris - en, Lead - ing now a might - y throng.

Dm Am⁷ Am Dm Am⁷ Dsus Dm

Bring - ing jus - tice To ev - 'ry tribe and tongue.
Hear Him ask - ing For noth - ing in re - turn.
See them march - ing With just a bowl and towel.

WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

ISAIAH 42
4.7.4.6.D. w. Ref.

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Refrain

Meek and low - ly, see Him con - quer. Strong and

si - lent, hear Him call. O so

ten - der to the weak - est, Gen - tle Lamb and

Lord of all! all!

TOPICS: Advent; Christmas; Jesus' Suffering & Death; Knowing Christ; Life of Christ; Serving in Christ's Name

LEAD-IN: *"Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him
and he will bring justice to the nations.
He will not shout or cry out,
or raise his voice in the streets.
A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.
In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;
he will not falter or be discouraged
till he establishes justice on earth.
In his law the islands will put their hope."*
(Isaiah 42:1-4, NIV)

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

The Servant King

God says this about the coming Messiah:

*“Here is my servant,
whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him
and he will bring justice to the nations.
He will not shout or cry out,
or raise his voice in the streets.
A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.
In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;
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In his law the islands will put their hope.”*
(Isaiah 42:1-4, NIV)

Hear the affection and enthusiasm in God's voice as He talks about this Special One. God takes particular delight in Him. Note that this is the same way God spoke of Jesus at His baptism, when Jesus was revealed in His humility (Luke 3:21-22), and at His transfiguration, when Jesus was revealed in His glory (Luke 9:35).

God says that He himself has chosen Him, and He will uphold Him. He will equip Him with His own Spirit (see also Isaiah 11:2).

This Chosen One will need this equipping, for His task is a huge one: to establish justice on earth. He will fully establish God's will, God's rightness, God's own character, throughout all creation, in every aspect of society, in every human relationship, and within every heart. He will rid a very unjust world and a very unjust people of all injustice. What a responsibility!

But notice that God calls Him "my Servant." Elsewhere in Isaiah He describes Him as a Mighty Deliverer and the King of All Kings, One who would rule completely, everywhere and forever (Isaiah 9:6). A sovereign king and a servant? This seems like a strange combination of descriptions for the same person.

But think of the qualities of a good servant:

- obedient
- humble, not calling attention to himself.
- selfless, focused only on the agenda and will of his master;
- single-minded, completely devoted to the task

These qualities match the way the Servant will approach His task. Though the work seems overwhelming, notice the unlikely way He will accomplish it.

- He will not shout or cry out.
- He will not raise His voice in the streets or call attention to himself.
- He will be so gentle that He won't break a bent blade of grass nor snuff out the final smoldering of a candle wick.

What a way to conquer the world! Social activists plan public protests and shout their causes in the streets. Politicians spend millions of dollars to fill every communications medium with their voices and images. Conquerors mount military campaigns with brute force, crushing anyone who gets in their way.

This Leader, this Conqueror is humble and gentle and refuses self-promotion. But don't mistake His methods for weakness. He will not falter. He will not be discouraged. And He will fully accomplish His task.

This is my favorite Old Testament picture of Christ. This is the Servant I see in the gospels: single-minded, obedient to His Father, completely dependent on Him, and totally devoted to His will and His glory. He doesn't call attention to Himself. In fact, we're told that when He healed people, He demanded that they not spread the word about what He had done for them (see Matthew 12:15-21).

He was humble. He came as seemingly the illegitimate son of a peasant girl. He was born in a stable and cradled in an animals' feeding trough because He had no other place. As an adult, He traveled the country without a home. He operated outside human authority. He was as an outcast, scorned as a heretic and a madman. And though completely non-violent and non-political, He was brutally executed as an enemy of church and state.

Yet He will succeed where all others have failed. He will conquer the earth forever and establish perfect justice everywhere, at every level, in every human heart.

This is the Savior I know. I recognize Him. This is the way He works in my life. He is so very gentle and patient, yet so persistent and faithful. I have failed more times than I care to remember. I'm such a slow learner. But He never gets impatient with me or in a rush. He doesn't give up on me, and He doesn't leave me in my sin. He continues to work to establish God's beautiful rightness in absolutely every corner of my life.

What a King! What a Servant! What a Savior!

*Father, let all I am be consumed by a passion
to glorify Jesus Christ.
I want everyone to fully realize
just how marvelous He is!*