

# The Servant King

*Read Isaiah 42:1-4*

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!*

**Hymn: [See the Servant](#)**

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