

Jesus, For Who He Is (Part 2) – Is 42:1-9

Is 42:1-9; West Campus; Flying high/Recovering from WinterJam; Doug

This is Part 2 of a 3 part message I started several weeks ago, in order to see Jesus for who he is; Something we get glimpses of every now and then in the OT . . .

But rarely with this kind of clarity; In fact, it's one of the reasons these chapters of Isaiah are so amazing

- The problem is, we don't often see it; We don't often see Jesus for who he is, and therefore fail to delight in him, b/c we tend to create him in our *own* image
Emphasizing the things we *like* about him, and the things like *us* – while minimizing the things we dislike, and are different

Like those who are high in mercy, and emphasize his grace to the exclusion of his truth
Even though the gospels reveal times of *very* strong words, and even stinging candor from Jesus to the point of condemnation

Meanwhile, those who are high in truth emphasize his “straight-talk”, to the exclusion of his grace, and mercy
Two of many possible extremes, that do nothing but yield an *idol* created in our own image; An idol we *call* Jesus, but isn't really him
In which case it behooves us, either as a corrective or a preventative, to pay close attention to passages like these, and see him for who he is (**Review**)

And it starts, as we found in Part 1, with recognizing that . . .

Isaiah 42 is a Servant Song

A song, b/c it's poetic and metaphorical in nature; And a *Servant Song*, b/c that's the word he uses; [1] *Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights*

Even more important, is that it's a *Messianic Servant Song* – a prophecy about the coming savior and deliverer; Look at v1

[1b] *I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. [2] He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; [3] a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. [4] He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.*

It's a Messianic Servant Song

- And there are 5 indicators of such (**Don't miss the indicators!**)
Starting with **Stand-alone Pronouns** like *he* and *him* and *his*; It's about a person
Someone with a **Worldwide Scope** – a mission to the *nations* and the *earth* (1,4)
And then there's **Supernatural Deeds** here, of faithfulness and miracles (7)
And **Contextual Support** throughout the Bible
And **New Testament Fulfillment** – found in Mt 12 (v15-23); Where in one fell swoop Matthew confirms that the servant of whom Isaiah spoke, is Jesus; The Messiah
So hands down, Isaiah 42 is a prophecy about Jesus; Don't miss the indicators (**Summ**)

- And don't miss the truths; That first of all . . .

Jesus is the apple of God's eye (v1)

The one he chose as his servant, the one he supports, upholds, places his Spirit on, and *delights* in; He's the apple of God's eye

And he ought to be the apple of ours; If God the Father delights in Jesus, we ought to delight in Jesus

2nd, we found that . . .

Jesus makes wrongs, right (v1b,3b,4)

Bringing justice to bear in our *lives*, and in our world

Like when he heals our infirmities; Or compensates for our weaknesses
Or cleanses our sin; Or relieves our oppression; Or judges the world when he returns
Jesus makes wrongs, right; Starting with the wrong of our heart, and ending with the wrong of this world (**Summary**); That was Part 1

- Which brings us to v5-7, and the fact that . . .

Jesus is the guarantee of our salvation (v6-7)

And while you may know that from other passages of Scripture, I want you to see it *here*
B/c doing so will increase your assurance, bolster your confidence, and solidify your conviction in the salvation you enjoy

[5] *Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: [6] “I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, [7] to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.*

The first thing of note, is that v5 is the *reason* God would do such a thing as give us his servant, and the *proof* that he has the power to do it

The reason, in that he made us and cares about us; He gives *breath* to the people, and *spirit* to the those who walk in the earth; Which means he has a vested interest in us
Especially so since we're weak, and frail, and made of dust
So of course he would give us his servant to help us and save us

And he's *capable* of doing so; The proof of which lies in the fact that he created the heavens, stretched them out, and did the same with the earth; With his words He spoke, and it all came into existence; He spoke, and they took shape; Giving us the universe we see today; That's power; That's ability
Proof positive that he could do the same in giving us his servant

- But here's the thing – these aren't just sterile facts to *know* here in v5; Rather, they're intended to *draw* us to God
They're intended to pique our interest, settle our doubts, and get us to seek him
Like the Apostle Paul said when he used some of these *same* words (**Acts 17:24-27**) in Acts 17; Look at what he said

[24] *The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth . . . [25] gives to all mankind life and breath and everything [including his Servant]. [26] And he made from one man [that's Adam] every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, [27] that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him.*

With phrases and words similar to those of Isaiah, Paul tells us that the *purpose* of God's power in creating us, and determining our place, and giving us Jesus . . .

Is to seek him and find him

So these aren't just facts to *know* here in v5, but facts by which to *grow*; Facts to increase your assurance in *salvation******

➤ And I say salvation, b/c of the words he uses in v6-7; Saying . . .

I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, [7] to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

He uses physical metaphors like opening eyes, releasing prisoners, and light – to illustrate spiritual truths about salvation

Just like Jesus did when he said – *I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life.* (Jn 8:12)

So Jesus came as God's *servant*, to save us from the bondage and consequences of sin, and give us the light of life; Salvation

And there are several aspects of it here in Isaiah that I want you to see

The first of which, is that it's . . .

- **Not of his own accord, but God's (v6)**

If you're going to see Jesus for who he is, you need to see him as acting on God's *behalf* You need to see him as God's instrument of salvation; Look at v6 again

[6] *"I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people*

I, I, I, and I; Indicating that he's the first cause of our salvation, and the unseen mover in Jesus' life to make it happen

Which should come as no surprise, b/c it's the very thing *Jesus* confessed while here on earth; Like in **Jn 14:10** . . .

The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. He's the unseen mover

And later on in **Jn 14:31** he says – *I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.*

Jesus is the means and guarantee of our salvation, yes, but not of his own accord*****

➤ Which should bolster our confidence, and give us great comfort; B/c he didn't act alone Not that he couldn't have; He's fully God after all; But he didn't; He acted in concert with the Father; The sovereign One; *He* was the one who orchestrated events

And I can't help but wonder what impact this passage must have had on Jesus as he grew up; B/c God's basically saying – "This is your destiny; This is your purpose"

Can you imagine having a 700 year old document written by a prophet of God, telling you what course your life would take?

No wonder Jesus was so resolute, and unstoppable, and single-minded

He knew his purpose, and he knew his destiny; And thank God for it, b/c we're the beneficiaries

2nd, Jesus is . . .

- **Perfect and holy in every way (v6)**

He's the guarantee of our salvation – perfect and holy in every way

I think that's the idea of the phrase – *I have called you in righteousness*

It's not only God laying hands on him out of a perfectly pure heart and motive, but it's

God insuring that Jesus *himself* is perfect and holy

That Jesus himself is righteous and without sin

And once again, the NT confirms it; Saying things like . . .

He was *a lamb without blemish or spot* (1 Pet 1:19)

And being made perfect [which is another way of saying – being *called in righteousness*], *he became the source of salvation to all who obey him* (Heb 5:9)

For it was indeed fitting [Hebrews says] *that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.* (7:26)

Jesus is perfect and holy in every way – making him *able* to save, and *able* to guarantee our salvation; You can depend on it

3rd, he was . . .

- **Led and protected by the Father himself (v6)**

I will take you by the hand and keep you God says (6); As in lead you and protect you

Much like an earthly father leads his *child* by the hand; And protects them from the storms of life

Only in this case, it's God doing so perfectly, and keeping Jesus for all eternity

And he'll do the same for you if you *take* his hand; If you drop your pride and follow his lead; If you stop thinking you can do life on your own, and start admitting your *need*

Still waters await; As does the restoration of your soul, and paths of righteousness (Ps 23)

For all eternity; Just like Jesus

He was led and protected by the Father himself, and you can be too

And then 4th, he was . . .

- **Given to us as a covenant (v6)**

Jesus is the guarantee of our salvation – given to us as a *covenant*

And this is the heart of the passage; In fact, this is the *reason* he's the guarantee of our salvation; *I will give you as a covenant for the people* God said (6)

And to understand that, there are 4 things you need to know about covenants

Covenants are a means of . . .

1. Establishing a relationship

A relationship of love, loyalty, and trust; That's one of the main purposes of covenants in the Ancient Near East; It's a means of tying 2 parties together as tightly as a family

That's why marriage is often referred to as a covenant

And that's why salvation under the *New Covenant*, is all about a relationship with *Jesus*

B/c that's the very *essence* of a covenant; It's a means of establishing a relationship

2. Making a commitment

A means of promising something; Like God says in **Is 54:10**

The mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed," says the LORD, who has compassion on you. It's a commitment

As is **Is 55:3** – *Incline your ear, and come to me [God says]; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant*

Covenants are a means of making a commitment*****

Just like God made a commitment to Abraham, when he told him he would make of him a great nation (Gen 12:1-3)

And to Noah, when he told him he would never again destroy the earth w/ a flood (9:11)

And to the Israelites through Moses, when he told them that they would be his people, and he would be their God (Ex 6:7)

And to David, when he told him that he would establish the throne of his kingdom forever and ever (2 Sam 7:13)

And to us through Jesus, when he said that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved (Rom 10:13)

Covenants are a means of making a commitment, and God has been doing so since the beginning of time, to establish his kingdom through relationships

3. Defining responsibilities

Like God said to the Israelites in Ex 19:5 – *If you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples*

And then he went on to lay out the 10 Commandments, the responsibilities of the covenant; Which they didn't keep, and couldn't keep; And neither can we

So God instituted a *new* covenant, to do *for* us, what we couldn't do on our own

Like he said in **Jer 32:40** – *I will make with them [my people, my followers] an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them [that's his responsibility, his commitment]. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me [that's our responsibility].*

But instead of relying on us, to do it ourselves, to do what we *couldn't* under the Old

Covenant – God does it *for* us under the New . . .

By putting a love and reverence for him in our *hearts* – *I will put the fear of me in their hearts* he said*****

IOW he actually gives us the desires we need, to fulfill the responsibilities we have, in covenant relationship with him

4. Extending blessings

Like the blessing of Jesus himself who *is the mediator of a new covenant* [the Bible says], *so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance* (Heb 9:15)

So that those who are saved may receive the massive blessing of life, and forgiveness, and heaven – forever and ever (**Summary**)

That's why Jesus is the guarantee of our salvation; B/c as our *covenant* . . .

We have a mutual *relationship* of love, loyalty, and trust with him . . .

He's *committed* himself to saving and keeping us . . .

He's accomplished what we couldn't, and given us the *desire* to fulfill our responsibilities . . .

And he's extended blessing upon blessing, including the presence of his Spirit (**Summ**)

I hope you do; And that your joy is full, and your delight overflowing as a result

Prayer – Lord, for all that you *did* in giving us Jesus; For all that he's *done* in saving our souls; For all that he *does* in making us whole – thank you; Open our eyes to wonders anew, and help us to see him for who he is, more and more

We give now, out of the desire you've given us – to live your way, worship you more, and fulfill the work of ministry here in our church

➤ Do you see it? And even more important, do you see *him*? For who he is?