

Finding Hope in God's Servant at Christmastime
Portraits of Perfection
The Perfection of the Servant's Purpose

4 servant songs

Isaiah 42:1-13

Isaiah 49:1-13

Isaiah 50:4-11

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

3 appropriate responses to the promised Messiah:

I. Consider Christ Because of the Uniqueness of His Person – 42:1-4

How does this servant song apply to people like you and me today?

1. If you do not yet know Christ as Savior and Lord, consider how well your present idols are serving you.
2. If you are a Christian, consider whether any residual idolatry is hindering your love for the Savior.

Hebrews 3:1 - *Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession...*

3. Let the Messiah's character become your own

John 1:12-13 - *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

Romans 8:28-29 - *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;*

4. Let your service for Christ flow out of a profound respect for our Savior's mission

A. God's chosen Servant

Isaiah 42:1 - *Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one...*

"There is something still more extraordinary, on account of which this name belongs especially to Christ, for He is called a 'Servant' because God the Father not only enjoined Him to teach or do some particular thing, but called Him to a singular and incomparable work which has nothing in common with other works." (John Calvin, Commentary on Isaiah, p. 284)

B. Was a delight to His Father

Isaiah 42:1 - *Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights...*

Matthew 3:16-17 - *After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."*

C. Will minister with quiet humility

Isaiah 42:2 - *He will not cry out or raise His voice, nor make His voice heard in the street.*

"God's answer to the oppressors of the world is not more oppression, nor is His answer to arrogance more arrogance; rather in quietness, humility, and simplicity, He will take all of the evil into Himself and return only grace. That is power." (John Oswalt, NIC, Isaiah, vol. 2, p. 111)

D. Will bring forth justice to the nations through the proclamation of His law

v. 1 - *He will bring forth justice to the nations*

v. 3 - *He will faithfully bring forth justice*

v. 4 - *...until He has established justice in the earth*

Isaiah 42:3 - *A bruised reed He will not break and a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish...*

II. Follow Christ Because of the Assurance of His Mission – 42:5-9

A. A mission conceived by the Creator Himself

Isaiah 42:5 - *Thus says God the Lord, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring...*

Isaiah 42:6 - *I am the Lord, I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You...*

B. A mission focused on people

Isaiah 42:5 - *...Who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it...*

C. A mission providing hope and redemption

Isaiah 42:7 - *To open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon and those who dwell in darkness from the prison.*

D. A mission regarding personal sacrifice

Isaiah 42:6 - *...I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the nations...*

1 Corinthians 11:25 - *In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."*

E. A mission that places the glory where it belongs

Isaiah 42:8 - *I am the Lord, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, nor My praise to graven images.*

III. Praise Christ Because of the Glory Due His Name – v. 10-13

v. 10 - *Sing to the Lord a new song. Sing His praise from the end of the earth.*