

## **DARKENED EYES**

Monday, November 27

Reading: Isaiah 42

**Isaiah 42:6** *"I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness; I will take hold of Your hand. I will keep You and will make You to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, 7 to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness."*

It is always eerie when you enter a totally dark room. The phrase "you can't see your hand in front of your face" is literally true! But what happens when you light a single small match? The darkness flees away and you can see.

Isaiah 42 is the first of what some call the prophet's "Servant Songs." These are passages that represent Christ as the Servant of the Lord (42:1-9). He comes to bring justice and be a light to the Gentiles. Isaiah 42:7 reminds us of the ministry of Jesus as He revealed His character through the miracles He performed. But this opening of eyes and releasing those who sit in darkness is more than just physical healing. Christ came to open our hearts to God's truth and free us from the slavery of sin.

One of the great truths revealed about Christ in this chapter is the gentle way He deals with His people (42:2-3). A bruised reed is one that is fragile and ready break. A "smoldering wick" is one that contains a flame that has almost gone out. These are good descriptions of our lives at times. We all have times when we feel ready to break; times when our spiritual fire for God has all but gone out. It is at these times that Christ comforts and restores us with a gentle hand and a soft voice. When have you experienced the gentle, restoring hand of Christ in your life?

The next section describes Christ's return to judge the nations (42:10-17). He will march out to defend His people and bring justice to the earth. This is a reason for joy and celebration as He sets right His creation that was corrupted by sin. Again, the prophet uses the image of turning darkness into light to proclaim how Christ will save His people.

For Isaiah, the return of the Lord was a reason for singing a new song. It brought hope and comfort to the faithful. When you think about standing before the Lord someday, what thoughts come to your heart? Will you feel joy by being in His presence? Or will you feel sorrow and shame for the missed opportunities to serve Him you knowingly refused?

The final section of Isaiah 42 is a warning to God's people (42:18-25). Here Israel is called "My servant." But unlike Christ (the Righteous Servant in the opening verses), they are a rebellious servant. They are blind and deaf to God's will for their lives. Because of their sin, God would allow their enemies to conquer and scatter them. The Lord does this in the hope that His people - His servants - will repent and turn back to Him.

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

Is it possible that we have become blind and deaf to the work of God? "You have seen many things, but have paid no attention; your ears are open, but you hear nothing" (42:20). Could this be true of the church today? What will it take for God's people to wake up and live lives worthy of Christ?