

“My Servant”

Matthew 12:14-21 cf. Isaiah 42:1-4

Each of the names and titles of Christ teach us something about His character. In this message we will consider His title “**MY SERVANT.**”

➔Philippians 2:7 says Jesus took upon Himself “*the form of a SERVANT.*”

The title “*servant*” in the Bible is synonymous to that of a slave. If we wish to follow Christ and become more like Him, we must be willing to take one of the most undesirable positions in life—That of a slave.

A servant/slave had no life or rights of his own. A servant’s will is the will of the one he belongs to (“*Not my will, but thine be done.*”)

THE SETTING: Jesus had withdrew to a remote area. The crowds soon heard where He was and flocked to Him. Jesus ministered to them and began to heal them. Then He told them not to make Him known.

➔Jesus said this to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah 42:1-4.

➔“**BEHOLD, my servant...**” “**BEHOLD,**” is more than a casual glance. It means to fix one's eyes upon—to study closely.

- “*But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory...*” (2 Cor. 3:18). The more you “*behold*” the Lord, the more you will be changed into His likeness—You become more like Him.

I. The *STRENGTH* of His service (v. 18—“*...whom I have chosen...*”). His strength came by knowing 3 things...

A. He was **APPOINTED** by God—God chose Jesus.

1. There is strength knowing who selected you. As a servant of God, our importance lies not in the prominence of the position we hold, but in the truth of who called us to serve.
2. If God sent two angels to earth, one to represent Him in the White House, and the other to clean the restrooms of a local church, each would be equally blessed... and each would be equally diligent and faithful in carrying out his service.
3. God has chosen you to serve Him in some area. Do your best.

B. He was **APPROVED** of God—“*My Beloved, in whom My soul is well pleased.*” Strength comes by knowing you are loved and knowing what you are doing pleases God.

1. Knowing he was loved by His Father enabled Him to endure the rejection of men. His own were not delighted in Him, but He could go on in His service because He was assured of His Father's love.
 - ➔ You and I will not always be praised or appreciated by others. But we are strengthened as we realize God is pleased by our service.
 2. When you know the one you serve is pleased with your service, it will energize you to serve even more!
- C. He was **ANOINTED** by God—*“I will put My Spirit upon him...”* (Acts 10:38). If Jesus needed God's anointing, how much more do we need it. When we serve in the strength of the flesh, we accomplish little. But when we are empowered by God's Spirit, things get done.

II. **The *SPIRIT* of His service** (Isa. 42:2-3). 3 characteristics of service:

- A. **HUMILITY**—*“He shall not strive...”*
1. He never strived for recognition. He never sought the favor of men.
 2. He didn't use His success to promote Himself. He didn't talk about what He did nor publish His miracles in the *Jerusalem Post*. As a servant, He just calmly went about doing what the Father called Him to do (vs. 14-16). ILLUS: 1 Cor. 9:16
- B. **HUSHED**—*“...nor cry.”*
1. When falsely accused, He opened not His mouth. He did not cry out in retaliation to those who crucified Him.
 2. *“When he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed Himself to him that judgeth righteously”* (1 Pet. 2:23).
- C. **HELPFUL**—*“A bruised reed shall He not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench...”*
1. He was considerate to the bruised and broken.
 2. He was compassionate towards the faint.
 - Reeds often wilt under the heat of the Galilean sun and bend and break. That is like us—Under the heat of trails we may wilt. Adversity leaves us bruised. But Jesus knows our

weakness. He will not break us when we are bruised and hurting.

- Flax is difficult to ignite and burn brightly. It only smolders. Like flax sometimes we can only smolder. But Jesus doesn't give up on us—He doesn't douse out the small ember that still burns. A *“smoking flax He shall not quench.”* Why? Because He knows our frame and remembers we are but dust (Ps. 103). And He loves us anyway!

➔No one is beyond help unless they are beyond humbling themselves.

III. The *SUCCESS* of His service—Isa. 42:4, *“ He shall NOT FAIL nor be DISCOURAGED, till he have set judgment in the earth...”* Mt. 12:20-21—*“...till he send forth judgment unto victory...”*

- A. I confess: I get discouraged with myself sometimes. I get discouraged about the weakness of my faith ... my lack of zeal in soul winning... the irregularity of my prayer life.
- But, praise God—**Jesus never gets discouraged!** The fact I serve a God who never gets discouraged helps me not be discouraged also. How would you feel if your pastor always came to the pulpit discouraged. You'd be discouraged also!
- b. As *“the Servant of the Lord,”* Jesus will not quit until His job is finished! Amen! As we serve the Lord, you must not quit until you've successfully finished what God has called you to do!

SUMMATION: A European nobleman called his household to hear what he had written in his will. He said He was leaving his entire estate to his eldest servant. Someone asked what he was leaving for his rebellious son. The old man replied, “My son left home several years ago, and no one has heard from him. However, if he should ever return, he may have his choice of one of three things: (1) All my money; (2) All my possessions; (3) He could chose any one of my servants.

Sure enough, when the son heard that his father had passed away, he returned home to see what his father had left him. When he was offered the three choices he wisely choose his father's eldest servant. He realized that if he had the servant, he had everything the servant had.

Jesus, is the Servant of the Lord. God the Father has entrusted everything to Him. When a person chooses Jesus, he also possesses all that Jesus has. Romans 8:17 says we are *“joint-heirs with Christ.”*

Will you follow Christ's example as a servant?

If you are not saved, trust Christ who gave His life for you.

If you are saved, serve Him... Romans 12:1—*"which is your REASONABLE service."* Jesus said, *"He that is greatest among you shall be your SERVANT"* (Mt. 23:11).

The greatest commendation that could ever be said of you is, *"Well done, thou good and faithful SERVANT"* (Mt. 25:21). Will Jesus say this to you?

As Bob Dylan's song truly says, "You gotta serve somebody... It may be the devil or it may be the Lord. But you're gonna have to serve somebody."

Who's servant are you? Are you serving the flesh? Are you the servant of sin? Or, are you a servant of the Lord? Remember, the will of a servant is the will of the one he is serving.

