

The Servant of God

Just as The Holy Spirit serves us so Jesus served The Father

The commissioning of the servant is described Is 49.1–6

1 Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name.

2 And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;

3 And said unto me, Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.

4 Then I said, I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, and in vain: yet surely my judgment is with the LORD, and my work with my God.

5 And now, saith the LORD that formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength.

6 And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

While the servant was being formed in his mother's womb God called him to be a servant of His. God prepared him for ministry. He polished his speech and character and hid him until the appointed time of his ministry. Note God calls him so he does not have to respond except to accept the calling of God. The servant voluntarily serves God.

He told His servant that he will glorify God by the way he serves God! People will see that God is the source of his actions and give Glory to God because of the way the servant expresses God through his life!

The servant does not care about the rewards of men or earthly riches but is content to be rewarded by God in heaven. God will strengthen him in this and because of his life, many will be reconciled to God!

The servant realises the honour he has received to be called a servant of God and that God has called him to reconcile people to Him! He is a light to the world as he tells the truth of God's desire for a close relationship with people.

The servant's reliance on God is spoken of Is 50.4–9

4 The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.

5 The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back.

6 I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.

7 For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.

8 He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who is mine adversary? let him come near to me.

9 Behold, the Lord GOD will help me; who is he that shall condemn me? lo, they all shall wax old as a garment; the moth shall eat them up.

The servant relies on God to do what He has promised and as a result the attitude of the servant is different to that of the peoples around him!

The servant uses his tongue wisely. Each morning he wakes to the voice of God as he spends time listening to Him and learning from Him. He is submissive to the Will of God and accepts the rebukes and instruction God gives to him!

He was willing to suffer shame and hardship if it would help someone be reconciled to God or would further serve the purposes of God!

He relies on God to vindicate him and protect him in God's chosen timing and not his own. This may mean death before vindication and deliverance, but this does not concern him as the purposes of God are greater than his own purposes!

His steadfastness in God's purpose is declared Is 52.13 – 53.12

13 Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high.

14 As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:

15 So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider.

1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

God lets His servant be treated so badly that people will wonder at what happens to him and believe that God has cursed His servant. But the servant accepts this suffering and continues to do the will of God! God then uses the servant to save many and exalts him in His timing. This path of God's abasement and restoration is the only path that leads to God alone being able to lift up His servant as the servant is not in a position for himself to recover and others are not in a position to help him do so! Only God is able to lift His servant from the position He has let him fall too!

It is at this lowest point that great servants are made or lost, according to the dependence of the person on God, or his own abilities, for his restoration!

This 'dark night of the soul' and the associated 'wilderness experience' must be gone through by all who would serve God and it is in this 'dark night' that many fall away just short of the final victory!

God will eventually exalt His servant because the servant has acted wisely and faithfully done all that God has asked him to do! Kings of the earth will listen in silence and amazement at what has happened to the servant and what the message of the servant is. They will be attracted by whom he is and what he has to say rather than to his appearance.

The servant will mature before God but will be treated badly by men who will not understand what God is doing through him. He will have a burden for the lost and will suffer in his attempts to save them and be used to reconcile them to God!

He will not defend himself or claim any rights as the only rights he has will have been given him by God! He also considers the purposes of God of more importance than his own life and pleasure! But God takes pleasure in his suffering because of the attitude of the servant to Him and because of what the servant has achieved through his obedient death!

The servant will see the fruits of his labour in eternity and will be satisfied and God will exalt him for all to see!

Suffering is the way of God and the servant is called to suffer! We will be true servants of Jesus when we listen to God as Jesus did and have as our priorities the purposes and will of God at the expense of our own personal pleasures and enjoyments!!

The true servant of God delights to do the will of God and rejoices that he is found worthy to do the work of God. He gladly embraces trials and tribulations for the privilege of being used by His Lord and King.

The will of his God is more important than his own will and like a true servant he places the will and desires of his master over his own.

He knows he can only do his master's will because his master gives him the authority to serve him and in his serving is the expression of the master and reveals His masters Character, as he represents his master by the way he serves. He trusts God to supply all he needs to do God's Will.

He knows that because of the faithful way he serves his master, his master delights in him and will gladly and joyfully reward him.

Along with the concept of being set aside for the master's exclusive use and his choosing to serve the master, is the concept of holiness – the position of the servant's master in the realm of things.

God is Holy – set apart from all creation, pure and complete in himself!

We are sanctified – set apart for God. Holiness is not in our nature. We must work at it! We are only in a correct (righteous) relationship with a Holy God because of what Jesus has done.

The servant's status and relationship depends on what the master allows and depends at times on how the servant relates to his master. There are times the master will appear to ignore the servant's need but he still feeds and clothes the servant.

If the servant starts complaining about his own needs and rights, ahead of his master's requirements, the master will no longer be able to use him. Thus, the servant who wants his masters rewards will put his master's needs – whether directed to by his master or not – ahead of his own.

Happy is the servant whose joy is to serve his master and please him because he loves his master more than himself – he will be rewarded. But those who insist on their own rights ahead of their masters' will be cast out into the darkness of the night!

'And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your Servant'

Jesus told us that leaders are servants and that the role of a minister of Jesus, and thus a servant, was to be desired if you would be 'great' in the Kingdom of The Father.

This servant attitude reflects that of God and by this you show you are His servant reflecting His nature.

God keeps us all alive (both the good and the wicked) and provides for our needs. He does not force Himself on us as He has given us free will. He guides us and helps us make the right decisions but gives us the freedom to reject His advice. This is the second aspect of a servant. He is a teacher. The true teacher is also a servant.

Hence the role of a servant is defined:

Assist others to help themselves when they are unable too

Teach others to help themselves when they are able to, and to

Bring people to knowledge of the truths of God and of His works

Free people from the kingdom of Satan and its effects on them

Bring Glory and Honour to God in all they do

This was the nature of God's servant, Jesus - the greatest servant of all!

Christians say they are servants of God! The truth is anyone who obeys God wholeheartedly is His servant.

A servant is one who obeys the instructions of another. Demons are God's servants as they must obey Him and His guidelines. The difference is that we do it out of love for what Jesus and The Father has done for us. They do it out of necessity

You would be a great servant for God? Obey Him in the little, daily things of life and as you prove your faithfulness, He will trust you with more! The Christian life is won in the little daily things done properly,

Remember we obey out of Love for Jesus as our spiritual step-brother and family and not out of legalism for fear of punishment.

A Christian, in whom God's Love has matured, is really only happy in four circumstances:

Freeing people from Satan's kingdom and the effect of it on people

Expressing God's Love as they serve others and help others to grow and develop as people

Resting in the fellowship of God's Love and Grace with their consequent benefits.

Fellowshipping with others of like heart and mind.

If you love a person, you are willing to suffer for them (putting aside your personal and selfish interests for their own good).

If you really love them you will die for them when asked too by Jesus.

How much you really love Jesus and others will be shown by how much you are willing to suffer for them - but not out of a sense of duty or fear of hell, but out of love for them, His Name and His purposes.

Love serves because it can see the benefit to another of the service and is willing to pay the cost for that to occur. By this is the Love of God shown in our lives that we serve others because it benefits them and not because of any selfish interests or desires being met.

True Love does not do for another what they should be doing for themselves but does for another what it cannot do for itself or needs help to be able to do it for themselves.

Most people want to do big, important things for Jesus. This is often so they will either feel they are doing God's will adequately and so are acceptable by God or for the purposes of self-esteem.

God is interested only in the relationship and the love that flows from it. Nothing you do can change this. All Jesus requires of us is to relate to Him in His Quality of Love and do well what He gives you - no matter how small or trivial it appears to be!

Love is faithful and is a good steward of what they are trusted with and does what is required without thought of self or gain and thinks only of serving others and from this obtains its pleasure. Reward is not important, only the joy and benefit it gives to another.

In the Kingdom of God, no work is trivial or unimportant if it is done for The King as it is necessary in some way for The Kingdom to function properly. Where love is concerned there is no work too manual or trivial to do for the king you love!