

Series: Isaiah
Title: My Servant Shall
Text: Isaiah 52: 13-15
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God never “tries;” God does! God the Son never “wants” to do anything; Christ does! Men speak strangely of some other god who “wants” to save. Some other Jesus who is “trying” to save, “trying” to teach all men. Yet their Jesus is frustrated by the sinner. That is not the God of the Bible! But the God of the Bible does describe their god:

Isaiah 46: 7: They bear him upon the shoulder, they carry him, and set him in his place, and he standeth; from his place shall he not remove: yea, one shall cry unto him, yet can he not answer, nor save him out of his trouble.

That is the exact description they give of their god, “He has no hands but your hands, no feet but your feet.” They have prayer teams: prayer captains, prayer warriors. Yet, they say he cannot save, “For he has done all he can do.” God says, “yea, one shall cry unto him, yet can he not answer, nor save him out of his trouble.”

Our text is in Isaiah 52: 13-15. I want for you to read the text with me. As we read it, notice that the true and living God never describes his Son as making a frustrated attempt at anything. Pay close attention to how many times God says he “shall.”

Isaiah 52: 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.

Title: My Servant Shall

Divisions: 1) First, notice the certainty of Christ’s dealings—**v13: Behold, my servant SHALL deal prudently, he SHALL be exalted and extolled, and be very high.** 2) Secondly, notice, in direct proportion to how MANY were astonished at Christ’s humiliation so shall he wash MANY in his blood—**v14: As MANY were astonished at thee;...15: So shall he sprinkle MANY nations;** [Let’s read it all together now] 3) Thirdly, notice the certain triumph of our exalted Redeemer over men—**v15:...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.**

Proposition: In direct proportion to the depth of suffering that Christ willingly endured in his humiliation so is he highly exalted and so shall he save his people from among many nations.

I. FIRST, LET’S HEAR GOD’S DESCRIPTION OF THE CERTAINTY OF HIS SON’S DEALINGS.

My Servant

God says in verse 13, “Behold, my servant.” The Son of God became the servant of God the Father. **Spurgeon said,** “Servant is a title as honorable as it is condescending.” It is honorable because Christ was chosen by God the Father to be his servant.

Isaiah 42: 1: Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, *in whom* my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. 2: He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. 3: A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not

quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. 4: He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.

“Servant” is a condescending title, because Christ willingly came so far down, so low, to serve his Father.

Philippians 2: 6: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:...

Application: Brethren, think of that. The holy, infinite, immaculate God of glory condescended to be made in our likeness, and to take the form of a servant; from being in the form of God—to the form of a servant; from being equal with God—to being made in the likeness of men. And vain sinners won’t condescend to come down off the dung heap!

Christ came down to manifest the GLORY of God—his being and his divine perfections, to fulfill his own law—to honor and magnify his own law. The Son of God came down to save worthless sinners like you and me! That is astounding! No wonder God the Father says, “Behold, my servant!”

Shall Deal Prudently

Next, notice the certainty. God says, “**My servant shall deal prudently.**” The marginal reference says, “shall prosper.” In Proverbs 8: 12, Christ is described by the habitation in which he dwells, “I Wisdom inhabit Prudence”

Christ Jesus dealt wisely, prudently in how he called his apostles and taught them. He dealt prudence to them—he makes men “wise unto salvation.” Everything our Savior did was wise and prudent.

Primarily, this has to do with Christ fulfilling the law for God and his people, with putting away the sin of his people and with making his people the righteousness of God in him of which we see a picture in Joshua 1. Christ is our Joshua, Savior. God the Father said to his Son, Christ his Servant, what he said here to Joshua.

Joshua 1: 6: Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them. 7: Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper [same word as “prudent] whithersoever thou goest. 8: This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Jeremiah 23:5: Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

These were the first recorded words of God’s servant, Christ Jesus, “Wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?” (Lk 2: 49)

Psalm 40: 6: Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required. 7: Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book *it is* written of me, 8: I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

Hebrews 10: 8: Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; 9: Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, [the curse of the law under the covenant of works] that he may establish the second. [that everlasting covenant of grace for his people] 10: By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. 11: And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: 12: But this man, after he had

offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; 13: From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. 14: For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. 15: Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, 16: This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; 17: And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. 18: Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.

Christ said that is what he came to do:

Matthew 5: 17: Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. 18: For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Isaiah 53: 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.

The first words he spoke were, “I must be about my Father’s business.” His last words were, “It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. (Jn 19: 30) God the Father said,

Matthew 17: 5:...This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

Isaiah 42:21: The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness’ sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable.

Application: Sinner, stop looking to you! Cease looking to your imaginary law-keeping for acceptance with God—and that includes your morality—being a moral person is what you ought to be—BUT never imagine it will gain you acceptance with God. By Christ Jesus “all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.” (Acts 13: 39) And believer, once you have come to Christ, keep coming to Christ—do not go back to the law—“For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.” (Rom 10: 4) “The just shall live by faith and the law is not of faith.” (Gal 3: 11-12)

II. SECONDLY, IN DIRECT PROPORTION TO HOW SHOCKED MEN WERE AT THE DEPTHS OF CHRIST’S HUMILIATION ON THE CROSS—SO THAT IS HOW HIGHLY HE SHALL HE BE EXALTED AND HOW MANY HE SHALL WASH IN HIS BLOOD—v14: As MANY were astonished at thee;...15: So SHALL he sprinkle MANY nations;

In direct proportion to the astonishment, the shock, the way men were struck dumb, when they beheld Christ on the cross. In proportion to the depth to which Christ bowed himself, in proportion to how deeply and profoundly the Savior suffered in the room and stead of his people on the cross wo shall he be exalted, so shall he purge his people throughout many nations; so shall every last knee bow, dumb and shocked at the appearance of him in his exaltation.

So how low did Christ lower himself? Verse 14 says, “his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men.” In the history of this world, there has never been a man whose appearance was marred as badly as Christ’s appearance was marred on the cross, “his visage was so marred MORE than ANY man.” In all of history, no man at any time ever had his bodily form more disfigured than Christ’s on the cross, verse 14 says, “his form more than the sons of men.”

Note: God does not exaggerate! What God says in this verse is so because the shock of men at our Savior, the marring and disfigurement of our Savior is in direct proportion to his exaltation and to the salvation of his

people—and no man has ever been exalted to the heights Christ has—no man! His work of fulfilling the law is so thorough and complete that nothing can be added or taken away.

Therefore, it means exactly what it says, no man has ever been so marred and so disfigured as our Savior on that tree! This is not some preacher reaching for dramatic effect or to be sensational as men like to accuse God's faithful preachers. GOD wrote this!

What caused this marring and disfigurement? Chapter 53 tells us. God states the fact in our text then tells us what caused it.

Sinners

Isaiah 53: 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.

Sinful man—men like you and me in our natural state—stripped him totally naked and slashed him with a whip 39 times. Man plucked out his beard by the roots by the handfuls. We crowned him with thorns, put a dirty rug over his bleeding back, and put a reed in his hand for a scepter the bowed and mocked God! Sinners blindfolded him then punched him in the face, saying, “Who hit you?” We pierced his hands and his feet with spikes, nailed him to a cursed tree then dropped that tree down into a posthole. Then sinners sat to watch him slowly drown in the fluid of his own lungs. That is the enmity against God that is in your child and mine, in your flesh and in mine! “The carnal mind is enmity against God”—that is a noun, not a verb or an adjective. That is what the carnal mind is—enmity against God.

The Power of Darkness

Secondly, this is not in the chapter, but the power of darkness had a hand in buffeting him, too.

Luke 22:53: When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness.

God foretold of Christ and of Satan, he said, “[the Seed of Woman-Chrhist] shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” (Gen 3: 15) Every devil that asked permission to go into the swine, every devil he cast out, had unlimited access to do to Christ what they would on the cross. I said Thursday—“he shall not leave my soul in hell”—does not mean that Christ went to the place of the damned. But he certainly endured hell in place of his people on the cross.

Our Grievs and Sorrows

Thirdly, this marring and disfigurement was because he bore in his body the griefs and sorrows caused by our sicknesses.

Isaiah 53:4: Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows:

Matthew 8: 16: When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: 17: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

For all whom Christ healed, he took and carried the griefs and sorrows. It obviously aged his appearance even before the cross. They said, “He is not yet 50 years old”—but he was only 30 years of age. (Jn 8: 57) The commentaries say it was because he bore our griefs and carried our sorrows.

The Wrath of God

Fourthly, this marring and disfigurement was from the wrath of God who forsook him in justice.

Isaiah 53: 4:...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.

Unbending justice required God to say,

Zechariah 13:7: Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd,...

Christ acknowledged it was God who was pouring out justice on him, saying,

Psalm 22: 1: My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me...14: I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. 15: My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.

Psalm 32:4: For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.

Our Iniquities

Fifthly, this marring and disfigurement—his bearing these bruises and this punishment—was because he bore the sin of his people.

Isaiah 53: 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....v11:...by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.,,v12...he bare the sin of many,

Christ's apostles quoted Isaiah 53 this way:

1 Corinthians 5: 21: For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

1 Peter 2:24: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Galatians 3:13: Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

By Christ Himself

Sixthly, Christ was marred and disfigured because Christ himself willingly gave his body, which was prepared for this purpose, to be the Sin-bearer and Substitute of his people, and he poured out his soul unto death.

Isaiah 53: 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.

Application: If the scriptures did not say these things, I would not say them. I never want the glory of my Redeemer dimmed in any way. But God says the depth of his suffering is directly proportionate to the height of his

exaltation and glory and the sureness of his salvation. Before showing us all these causes, God said here is the result of it all—“his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men.”

Lamentations 1:12: Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the LORD hath afflicted me in the day of his fierce anger. 13: From above hath he sent fire into my bones, and it prevaieth against them: he hath spread a net for my feet, he hath turned me back: he hath made me desolate and faint all the day. 14: The yoke of my transgressions is bound by his hand: they are wreathed, and come up upon my neck: he hath made my strength to fall, the Lord hath delivered me into their hands, from whom I am not able to rise up.

BUT GOD GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, AND CHRIST GAVE HIMSELF, SO THAT HIS PEOPLE WOULD NOT EVER HAVE TO BEAR THIS HELL; SO GOD COULD SHOWER HIS PEOPLE IN GRACE WHILE GOD’S OWN JUSTICE BE UPHELD! Child of God you can say, “I’m forgiven, because he was forsaken; I’m accepted, because he was condemned.”

Amazing love, how can it be
That thou my God shouldst die for me

So Shall He Sprinkle Many Nations

GOD SAID, “HE SHALL NOT FAIL!” (Is 42: 4) And Christ was victorious! Our text says that as astonished, as shocked, as men were, as disfigured and marred more than any other man that Christ became, “So shall he sprinkle MANY nations.” (Is 52: 15)

“**Sprinkle**” means he shall wash each of his elect, purge us of all our sins. By his blood all his redeemed shall be washed in the washing of regeneration (Ti 3: 5) and washed in his word (Eph 5: 25-27)....

Titus 3: 5: Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6: Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 7: That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Ephesians 5: 25: Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26: That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27: That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Hebrews 9:14: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

“Many nations” does not mean everyone in every nation; it means his elect whose sin he bore away to a land not inhabited. HE SHALL NOT FAIL!

III. LASTLY, THE CERTAIN TRIUMPH OF OUR EXALTED REDEEMER—every knee shall bow and praise him—v15:...**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.**

In Romans 15:20-21 this verse is applied to the preaching of the gospel to the Gentiles. Paul said I preach where Christ is not named that this scripture might be fulfilled. Not only does Christ have a people among the Jews but also among the Gentiles—

Romans 15: 20 Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man’s foundation: 21 But as it is written, To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand.

Isaiah 49:6: 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.

And it may be applied to every rebel—for all shall shut their mouth and confess him Lord in the day of judgment. God said this, in verse 13: “He shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high.” By serving the Father, Christ Jesus, God our Savior highly exalted God the Father, declaring his righteousness. He declared how God can be a just God and a merciful Savior to his people. In what appears to men as utter abasement, as undignified, disgraceful, shameful, bloody death, God says it exalted him in the highest! Wherefore every knee shall bow and confess Christ to be the greatest.

Philippians 2: 9: Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; 11: And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

It is “To the glory of God the Father” because God the Father choose his servant, God the Father sent his servant, God the Father upheld his servant, and God the Father delights in his servant! His servant is “the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person,” (Heb 1: 3)

John 5:22: For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: 23: That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

God said “He shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high.”

Revelation 5: 6: And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. 7: And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. 8: And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four *and* twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. 9: And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10: And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. 11: And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; 12: Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. 13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, *be* unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

Application: Now, sinner—you shall meet God’s Righteous Servant one day. But you’ll not meet him this way but he will adorned as the King of kings—not as a servant but as Judge. You can try to ignore the fact, but sooner or later, you will do business with the Son of God!

“Be wise now therefore, be instructed, Serve the LORD with fear, rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him. (Ps 2: 10-12)

And brethren—rejoice—for we shall meet him too! What joy! What praise!

Matthew 25: 34: Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Matthew 13: 43: Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father!

Amen!