

God's Chosen Servant

“Then He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other. But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus. Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. Many followed Him and He healed all the sick, warning them not to tell who He was. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: ‘Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on Him, and He will proclaim justice to the nations. He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear His voice in the streets. A bruised reed will He not break, and a smoldering wick He will not snuff out, till He leads justice to victory. In His name the nations will put their hope.’” (Matthew 12:13-21)

Have you observed how an old machine is working? The power is transmitted from the motor to the other working parts by belts of different sizes on wheels, changing the electric power into mechanic power that is necessary for the machine's output. This small part of the machine if compared to other parts is less in price but its function is indispensable and highly appreciable. Without it the machine's operation is blocked, therefore usually a spare is always on hand to replace whenever it is worn out or not functioning properly. While the machine's motor sounds high or loud the belt never produces any sound. But, in spite of its invaluable and high function the belt is less presented or honoured than the other parts of the machine and its significance is unknown to some people.

The event in the above passage is the fulfillment of the prophecy in *Isaiah chapter 42* that speaks about the characteristic of Christ Jesus, *“Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on the cross!”* (Philippians 2:6-8)

Jesus was conceived by a virgin from the Holy Spirit, born and lived as a man. The Spirit of God was upon Him and as God's chosen servant He was obedient, humble and meek. *“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps.”* (1 Peter 2:21) Jesus is the chosen servant and through Him we became part of the chosen generation and royal priesthood to serve God with character that is like Him: *“Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight.”*

1. He will proclaim justice to the nations: Whatever we proclaim will never be effective unless we do what we proclaim. If it is holiness, let us be holy and pure in thought, in word, and in action. If it is mercy, be merciful and kind. If it is justice, show people righteousness and treat them justly with God's love and grace. As we proclaim to the people about Jesus let us be more like Him. *“Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did.”* (1 John 2:6) *“Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly love children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”* (Ephesians 5:1-2)

2. He will not quarrel: It is so clear that whatever the reason might be, we must not fight. Otherwise, no excuses remain: *“But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.”* (Colossians 3:8)

3. He will not cry out: The ministry of Jesus was opposed by the Pharisees. He was doing miracles and healing the sick but they tried to trap Him, plotted against Him and sentenced Him to die on the cross. In the midst of opposition, Jesus did not argue or complain but He just withdrew Himself from the place. In the same way, as servants of Christ we don't need to complain or cry out to the people but cry out to God in secret. God is the only worthy one that will listen to us to help us to do the best and even to reward us. Jesus, when He was doing miracles, He was warning the people not to tell others. Likewise, let us get used to do what God has asked us to do in secret. *“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honoured by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”* (Matthew 6:2-4)

4. No one will hear his voice in the streets: The people who rally in the streets are those who protest or bring out complaints in public. Anyone who is always complaining is never satisfied, and will not experience a joyful life. He who looks towards the negative points is blind to see the good things around him. He is unable to recognize God's grace and provision to him, but mentions only his mishaps and inadequacies. He is a man with grumbling spirit. Grumbling spirit is a sin in the sight of God. The people of God while they were in the desert grumbled against God, and God destroyed them. *“And do not grumble, as some of them did and were killed by the destroying angel.”* (1 Corinthians 10:10) *Instead, “Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God.”* (Philippians 2:14,15) Always rejoice and give thanks to God, with praises to be in our hearts and lips.

5. He will not use man's power: A servant of God will not use his muscles or body power to conquer evil. He will not use the world's resources and worldly ways to settle and manage the situation around him. But, he allows the Spirit of God to do to him. *“And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles.”* (Matthew 5:40-41) *“Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay says the Lord.”* (Romans 12:19) God sees His servants who are suffering. But, He wants them to be calm, quiet, patient, and to *persevere till He leads justice to victory.*

My dear and beloved: The word of God declares that we are the light of the world and the salt of the earth. If the people around us will see the character of Jesus in us, and they will discern in us the attitude of a God's chosen servant, *“In His name, in the name of Jesus, the nations will put their hope.” Amen!*

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I repent from the following sins _____. Lord change my characters and attitudes to be more humble, patient and persevering and waiting for you to bring victory in my life. Makes me the servant that you wants me to be. This is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*