

## Songs of the Servant: Isaiah 42

### 1. Context

“The time will surely come when everything in your palace, and all that your predecessors have stored up until this day, will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left, says the LORD.” **Isa 39:6**

“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.” **Isa 40:1-2**

“With whom, then, will you compare God? To what image will you liken him? As for an idol, a metalworker casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and fashions silver chains for it.” **Isa 40:18**

“Be silent before me, you islands! Let the nations renew their strength! Let them come forward and speak; let us meet together at the place of judgment.” **Isa 41:1**

### 2. Characteristics

“But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen... ” **Isa 41:8**

“See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you.” **Isa 42.9**

**Presentation** of the servant (vv. 1-4) – speaks of His character

**Confirmation** of His servant (vv. 5-9) – speaks of His cause

### 3. Content

#### Verses 1-4: Presentation of the Servant

##### a. His Identity

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” **Matt 3:16-17**

“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!” **Matt 17.5**

“whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—”

“just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” **Matt 20: 25-28**

## 2. His Mandate

“mishpat”

- i. with **meekness**.

“He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, nor cause His voice to be heard in the street”

**(v. 2)**

“Yet He warned them not to make Him known, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: “Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, And He will declare justice to the Gentiles. He will not quarrel nor cry out, Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets. A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench, Till He sends forth justice to victory; And in His name Gentiles will trust” **Matthew 12:15-21**

- ii. with **tenderness**.

God says of His Servant, “A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench” **(v. 3a)**

- iii. with **faithfulness**

“He will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. **Isa 11:3-5**

### **Verses 5-9: Confirmation**

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” **Luke 4:18-19**