**Palm Sunday**

**April 10, 2022 A.D.**

**Isaiah 42:1 BEHOLD MY SERVANT WHOM I UPHOLD…**

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(OT Focus passage) **Isaiah 42:1-4 / (**NT parallel text) **Matthew 12:18-21**

**1”Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations. 2He will not cry out or raise His voice, nor make His voice heard in the street. 3A bruised reed He will not break and a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice. 4He will not be disheartened or crushed until He has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law.”**

**Matthew 12: 15-17**

15But Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. Many followed Him and He healed them all, 16and He warned them not to tell who He was. **17This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet:**

**The first of four Servant Songs:** 1Isaiah 42:1-13; 249:1-13; 350:4-11; 452-13-53-12

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**His Person**: A Servant-King……Upheld……Chosen……The Father’s delight……Holy Spirit anointed (beyond measure)

**Isaiah 49:6-7**

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**His work:** To bring forth justice to the nations…His example of humble trust and obedient love. To be the New Covenant Sacrifice who will justify all His elect bride (The Church).

**Isaiah 42: 5-8 Luke 22:19-20**

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**His method and manner of ministry:**

2He will not cry out or raise His voice, nor make His voice heard in the street.

[Gentle, long suffering, kind, compassionate]

3A bruised reed He will not break and a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish

 **Psalm 103:8-14**

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**The results of His ministry:** (Isaiah/Matthew)

He will **faithfully bring forth justice.** / Until **He leads justice to victory.**

4He will not be disheartened or crushed **until He has established Justice in the earth**…and the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law. / And in His name the **gentiles will hope.**

Recommended Reading: **THE BRUISED REED** by Puritan Author Richard Sibbes

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Page 21-24 excerpted: Chapter one

HOW CHRIST PURSUES HIS CALLING

 This is here said to be done modestly, without making a noise, or raising dust by any pompous coming, as princes are accustomed to do. ‘His voice shall not be heard.’ His voice indeed was heard, but what voice? ‘Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden’ (Matt. 11:28). He cried, but how? ‘Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters’ (Is. 55:1). And as his coming was modest, so it was mild, which is set down in these words: ‘A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench.’

We see, therefore, that the condition of those with whom he was to deal was that were bruised reeds, and smoking flax; not trees, but reeds; and not whole but bruised reeds. The church is compared to weak things: to a dove amongst the fowls; to a vine amongst the plants; to sheep amongst the beasts; to a woman which is the weaker vessel.

God’s children are bruised reeds before their conversion and often times after. Before conversion all (except such as, being brought up in the church, God has delighted to show himself gracious to from their childhood) are bruised reeds, yet in different degrees, as God sees fit. And as there are differences with regard to temperament, gifts and manner of life, so there are in God’s intention to use men in the time to come; for usually empties such of themselves, and makes them nothing, before he will use them in any great service.

WHAT IT IS TO BE BRUISED

This bruising is required before conversion that so the Spirit may make way for Himself into the heart by levelling all proud, high thoughts, and that we may understand ourselves to be what indeed we are by nature. We love to wander from ourselves and to be strangers at home, till God bruises us by one cross or other, and then we ‘begin to think’, and come home to ourselves with the prodigal (Luke 15:7). It is a very hard thing to bring a dull and evasive heart to cry with feeling for mercy. Our hearts, like criminals, until they be beaten from all evasions, never cry for the mercy of the judge.

Again, this bruising makes us set a high price upon Christ. Then the gospel becomes the gospel indeed; the fig leaves of morality will do us no good. And it makes us more thankful, more fruitful in our lives; for what makes many so cold and barren, but that the bruising for sin never endeared God’s grace to them?

Likewise this dealing of God establishes us the more in his ways, having had knocks and bruises in our own way. This is often the cause of relapse and apostasy, because men never smarted for sin at the first; they were not long enough under the lash of the law. Hence this inferior work of the Spirit in bringing down high thoughts (2 Cor. 10:5) is necessary before conversion. And, for the most part, the Holy Spirit, to further the work of conviction, joins with it some affliction, which when sanctified, has a healing and purging power.

After conversion we need bruising so that the reeds may know themselves to be reeds, and not oaks. Even reeds need bruising, by reason of the remainder of pride in our nature, and to let us see that we live by mercy. Such bruising may help weaker Christians not be too much discouraged, when they see stronger ones shaken and bruised. Thus Peter was bruised when he wept bitterly (Matt. 26:75). This reed, till he met with this bruise, had more wind in him than pith when he said, ‘Though all forsake thee, I will not’ (Matt. 26:33). The people of God cannot be without these examples….

…Hence we learn that we must not pass too harsh judgement upon ourselves or others when God exercises us with bruising upon bruising. There must be conformity to our head, Christ, ‘Who was bruised for us’ (Isa. 53:5) that we may know how much we are bound unto him.