

The Lord's Servant, What A Contrast

Promise: Christ, the Lord's Ideal Servant Accomplishes our Salvation

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Isaiah 50:4-10; Ps 116:1-8; James 3:1-12; Mark 9:14-27

(Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 9/12/21)

Who among you fears the Lord and obeys the voice of his servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God. — v. 10

Lead In – The use of counterfeit money is a serious crime and is costly for merchants and consumers. In our present day we have scanners, Dri-Mark Tri Tests, black lights, and other methods for determining the authenticity of a bill. But it used to be done by a close visual inspection. This was done by not only being aware of counterfeit attempts, but also by becoming very familiar with a genuine bill through a meticulous inspection of the real thing. It is by way of contrast that counterfeits are exposed. Indeed we often learn by contrast.

I. The Servant of the LORD in Isaiah

- A. There are four *Servant Songs* in Isaiah...
- B. Long speculation over the identity of the Servant...
- C. In the NT we learn that Jesus is the Servant...

II. Don't Forget We Are All Servants of the LORD

- A. Disciples, believers, ministers, friends, yes...
- B. How the Apostles repeatedly identify themselves...
- C. By way of contrast we learn of true servant...

III. A Close Inspection of the Genuine Article

- A. The ideal servant has ears to hear...
- B. He is given the tongue of those who are taught...
- C. Resolute in obedience, even onto death...

Parting Shot – Only Christ Jesus, Isaiah's ideal Servant, renders perfect obedience. Only Christ our Lord can offer his suffering and death to atone for sins. As guilty sufferers we cannot even pay for our own sins. By grace we have been called to be servants of the Lord, but our privileged servanthood begins and ends by faith, even as we necessarily struggle to imitate and obey the ideal Servant. It is his voice that we are to trust and follow.

Servant Songs: In Isaiah 42:1-7; 49:1-6; 50:4-11; 52:13-53:12.

Is 42:1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

Is 53:7c-8 Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?

Ac 8:34 And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?"

Ro 1:1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle...

2Pe 1:1 Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ...

Isaiah 50:4-10 ESV

Israel's Sin and the Servant's Obedience

⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. ⁷But the Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. ⁸He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. ⁹Behold, the Lord GOD helps me; who will declare me guilty? Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up. ¹⁰Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the voice of his servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.

Re 1:1 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John.

Ja 1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ...

Jd 1:1 Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James...

Dt 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

Jn 12:49 For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.

Mt 11:28-30 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Lk 9:51 When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.

Ph 2:8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

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