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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Lesson Leaders:

James Haymon

Class Leaders:

Inreach: Pat Hester

Deacon: C M Hester

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

A good leader is a good servant

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Dear Lord, please give me a humble servant's heart. Help me to lead and follow with humility and compassion

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant

(Matt 20:26 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Feb 05, 2016)

Series: Justice and the Prophets

UNIT: God Promises a Just Kingdom

NEXT WEEK

A Resurrected Savior
(1 Cor 15:1-8, 12-14, 20-23, 42-45)

A Just Servant Isaiah 42:1-9

Lesson Background and Introduction

This lesson emphasizes God's promises of a just kingdom. The prophets foretold the coming of the Messiah as the champion of justice. Such prophecies, of course, have direct bearing on Palm Sunday. The word servant occurs more than three dozen times in the book of Isaiah. In chapter 41, the Lord applies it to Israel—"my servant" (Isaiah 41:8, 9). This servant was fearful. For that reason, God reassured the people of His love. He promised Israel that they were still His covenant people. The Lord encouraged His helpless servant Israel by stating that the people need not fear, because God would help them (41:10, 13, 14). The Lord then addressed, in a courtroom setting, the nations and their idols. The biblical concept of judgment represents God's righteous world order. At His first coming, Jesus treated people more than justly; when Jesus walked the earth, He overcame enemies with gentleness and love. When He returns, He will judge the world based on how each person treated "the least of these" (Matthew 25:45). At His first coming, the Lord's servant inaugurated God's just and right order from a position of apparent weakness when compared to worldly strength; in so doing, He is an example for us so that we can "follow [in] his steps" (1 Peter 2:21-23). We have a part to play in the servant's task of bringing light to the nations and to our neighbors who live in darkness. The Holy Spirit, working through Scripture and circumstances, motivates Christ's followers to take His gospel to the ends of the earth. For more than 2,000 years, Christians have borne witness to Jesus through evangelism (see Matthew 28:18-20) and ministries of mercy: establishing hospitals and schools, caring for prisoners and the poor, and participating in countless other charities (25:34-40). Particularly challenging for most of us is following the manner and attitude of the servant's life and ministry. It's not easy to surrender the self-centeredness and assertiveness that has been with us since birth in the surrounding culture. But God's Word calls us to pattern our lives after His servant Jesus (Philippians 2:4-8).

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

God's Servant - Isaiah described God's Servant and what the Servant would do. In doing so, Isaiah described Jesus and what He did. Filled with God's Spirit, Jesus quietly and humbly brought justice to the people.

The Reed and the Wick - To describe God's Servant, the prophet painted two pictures. One was of a reed—a fragile plant that usually grows in a swamp. It can be easily crushed or destroyed by an animal or an act of nature such as a fierce wind. The Savior gently handles this insignificant plant, keeping it from breaking apart. Isaiah also pictured a dimly burning wick for a lamp. The Messiah carefully trims the wick, drenches it with fresh oil, and blows His breath on it—making sure it does not go out. The Savior, unlike the reed or wick, is free from any evil or bad scars. Nothing dims His light. In God's perfection, He is God's blemish-free sacrifice to take away the sins of humanity. No nationality, country, class or religion is beyond His reach; each has the opportunity to embrace His truth. Regardless of their choice, it is still the Lord who provides every human being with their very breath.

The Light - Isaiah continued to speak of God's Servant, the Messiah, as the light to all nations. He is the absolute, final promise of God to both Jews and Gentiles. Jesus will bring any of His children out of being lost or in the dark. He illuminates their path, guiding them out of the captivity of sin and into His freedom.

God's Servant - The Messiah, Jesus Christ, is the light of the world. He came into the world to bring God's justice for all, Jews and Gentiles. On Palm Sunday they celebrated Him, but they were wanting political justice, not spiritual justice. How often today do we want the same thing?

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Jesus Brings Justice Through Firm Gentleness (Isa 42:1-4)

Firm because God's Spirit is on Him (1)

- On Jesus providing wisdom, understanding, counsel and power (Isa 11:1-2)
- On Jesus like a dove giving confirmation of Jesus as God's Son (Matt 3:16-17)
- On Jesus because Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit (John 1:33)
- On Jesus because He speaks the words of God (John 3:34-35)
- On Jesus because God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:37-38)

Gentle because of His servant attitude (1)

- A servant attitude is one of gentleness and humility (Matt 11:29)
- A servant attitude is one of service (Matt 20:28)
- A servant attitude is one that God considers greatest (Luke 22:27)
- A servant attitude is one that is willing to do even menial jobs (John 13:13-14)
- A servant attitude is one of submission (Heb 5:7-8)

Gentle because of His divine quietness (2)

- Quietness that comes from trusting God (1 Peter 2:23)
- Quietness that allows for a non-response for some situations (Matt 27:14)
- Quietness that comes from an understanding of the "big" picture (John 8:3-6)

Firm because of His capacity to endure (3)

- Jesus endured humanity so that He could become a faithful high priest (Heb 2:17-18)
- Jesus endured the cross to be the author and perfecter of faith (Heb 12:1-4)
- Jesus endured being a servant because He was obedient (Phil 2:6-8)
- Jesus endured all that happened to Him so that He could persevere (2 Thess 3:5)

Firm because of His faithfulness (3)

- Jesus is faithful because He does all He says (1 Thess 5:23-24)
- Jesus is faithful in His strengthening and protection (2 Thess 3:3)
- Jesus cannot be anything but faithful, even if we are faithless (2 Tim 2:11-13)
- Jesus is a faithful son over God's house (Heb 3:6)
- Jesus is faithful to fulfill His promises (Heb 10:23)
- Jesus is a faithful witness (Rev 1:5)

Gentle because of His divine encouragement (4)

- Encouragement through prayer (Luke 22:31-32)
- Encouragement through peace (John 14:27)
- Encouragement through truth and commitment (Heb 6:17-18)
- Encouragement through provisions (Jonah 4:5-6)

Jesus Brings Justice Through Authority and Revelation (Isa 42:5-9)

Jesus has the authority because He was the creator (5)

- Creator of things both visible and invisible (Col 1:16)
- Creator through being the Word (John 1:1-3)
- Creator through whom all things exist (1 Cor 8:6)
- Creator through whom all things were made (Heb 1:2)
- Creator who built everything (Heb 3:3-4)

Jesus has the authority because He gave life to man (5)

- Jesus provided life through breath (Acts 17:25)
- Jesus provided life because in Him we live, move and have our being (Acts 17:28)
- Jesus is the only way to life (John 14:6)
- Jesus is the bread of life (John 6:35)
- Jesus is the resurrection and the life (John 11:25)
- Life through Jesus' name (John 20:31)
- God provided eternal life only through one man – Jesus (Rom 5:17)

Jesus has the authority because He has the ability to make us righteous (6)

- Only through Jesus are the many made righteous (Rom 5:19)
- Righteousness comes through being born through Jesus (1 John 2:29)
- Jesus is our righteousness (1 Cor 1:30)

Jesus brings revelation through leadership (6)

- Leadership that leads to justification (Gal 3:24)
- Leadership that leads to the springs of living water (Rev 7:17)
- Leadership that leads to the way of God and truth (Matt 22:16)
- Leadership that leads to the right way (Mark 10:32)
- Leadership that leads to the Father God (John 14:6)
- Leadership that leads to a cleared way (1 Thess 3:11)
- Leadership that leads to the Most Holy Place (Heb 9:8)

Jesus brings revelation through wisdom and understanding (7)

- Wisdom and understanding that makes the God's way known to us (Isa 42:16)
- Wisdom and understanding that opens our mind to understand the Scriptures (Luke 24:45)
- Wisdom and understanding that opens spiritually blind eyes (John 9:39)
- Wisdom and understanding that exposes Satan and leads to sanctification (Acts 26:18)
- Wisdom and understanding of the glory of God (2 Cor 4:6)
- Wisdom and understanding that allows us to know God better (Eph 1:17-18)

Jesus brings revelation through deliverance (7)

- Deliverance from deadly peril (2 Cor 1:10)
- Deliverance from troubles (Ps 34:19)
- Deliverance from trials (1 Peter 2:9)
- Deliverance from temptations (1 Cor 10:13)
- Deliverance from evil attacks (1 Tim 4:18)

Jesus has the authority because He is the Lord (8)

- Jesus is our Lord because we have peace (Rom 5:1)
- Jesus is our Lord because we have eternal life (Rom 5:21)
- Jesus is our Lord because we believe in our heart that He has been raised from the dead (Rom 10:9)
- Jesus is our Lord because the Holy Spirit indwells us (1 Cor 12:3)
- Jesus is our Lord because He has all the glory, majesty, power and authority (Jude 25)

Jesus brings revelation through renewal (9)

- Renewal into a new creation (Cor 5:17)
- Renewal into a spiritual covenant (Gal 6:15)
- Renewal inwardly daily (2 Cor 4:16)
- Renewal of the old self (Col 3:10)
- Renewal by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5)