

*Waiting for Christmas ~ Jesus as Servant*  
*December 8 & 9, 2007*

Jesus the coming servant

***Look at My Servant, whom I strengthen. He is My Chosen One, who pleases Me. I have put My Spirit upon Him. He will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or raise His voice in public.... He will bring justice to all who have been wronged. He will not falter or lose heart until justice prevails throughout the earth. Isaiah chapter 42 verses 1 - 4 (549)***

- If Jesus needed to be sustained by the Father, how much more do I need this?
- Future tense...will bring justice (literally a verdict). It's still future tense, something we're waiting for
- God's way of bringing this about is different than our own
- Jesus will not give up until God's justice (verdict, judgment) is accomplished on all the earth
- ***LORD, You know the hopes of the helpless. Surely You will hear their cries and comfort them. You will bring justice to the orphans and the oppressed, so mere people can no longer terrify them. Psalm 10 verses 17 & 18 (418)***

***My Servant grew up in the LORD's presence like a tender green shoot, like a root in dry ground. There was nothing beautiful or majestic about His appearance, nothing to attract us to Him. He was despised and rejected - a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. Isaiah chapter 53 verses 2 & 3 (559)***

- Jesus' life was always in control of "I AM," the unchanging one
- His life was ordinary, not flashy or glitzy. He went unnoticed for the majority of his earthly life
- His looks were ordinary. He was not "tall, dark & handsome." There was nothing attractive about him physically
- Despised = to be scorned, vile. Rejected = alone. Sorrows = deep anguish. Grief = calamity.
- Notice that the very one who came to bring justice suffered injustice himself

***When He sees all that is accomplished by His anguish, He will be satisfied. And because of His experience, My righteous Servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for He will bear all their sins. Isaiah chapter 53 verse 11 (559)***

- Because Jesus knew he was stepping into an unjust world, he wasn't derailed by the injustice committed against him
- Jesus looked past his anguish to the good that it would accomplish
- Jesus understood that while God the Father could stop all pain & suffering, He chooses to allow it in this life, to bring good from it
- Jesus saw & understood the greater purpose & good to his earthly life as a servant
- Do I?

## Jesus the servant

***Jesus said, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give His life as a ransom for many.” Matthew chapter 20 verses 25 - 28 (751)***

- Jesus acknowledges that power corrupts leaders
- Notice that Jesus says it will be different among Christ-followers...no option!
- What’s the difference? God’s leaders must be awesome servants first & foremost!! And no flaunting!
- Not only must Christ-followers be awesome servants before they lead, they must remain awesome servants as they lead
- Why?? Because Jesus was a servant, & we never look more like Jesus than when we serve!

## How much do I “look like” Jesus?

***Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.***

*Philippians chapter 2 verses 3 - 5 (900)*

## Want more? Interact with these questions...

1. What do I need to start doing in my life to allow God to sustain me & empower me to a greater extent? What do I need to stop doing?
2. How am I partnering with God to bring justice to the world today? In order to do this with God, which of my attitudes need to change? How will I allow God to work in this area?
3. How does Galatians 6:7-10 fit in to all of this?
4. What does 1 Samuel 16:7 teach me about God? About myself? What does God see when He looks at me?
5. When I suffer injustice or pain, how does Romans 8:28 fit into my situation? Really? What do I need to do / start doing to see more of God’s “good” in my life?
6. What good is being accomplished because of my anguish? Am I satisfied?
7. How good of a servant am I? Leader? What do I need to do in order to honor God in both areas?
8. Spend some time reading & thinking through Philippians 2:3-5. How do I measure up to each statement? What am I going to do to grow in each area?
9. On a daily basis, be intentional and find at least 10 ways to serve people around you.

Next week: Jesus as King