

THE SERVANT OF THE LORD

Isaiah 42

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- In what ways do you spiritually prepare for Easter during Lent?
- What is your understanding of justice? Is God's justice the same or different than that definition?

When the apostles began teaching about Jesus Christ, they recognized the Old Testament had already told them much about who he was and his mission. Specifically, the apostles regularly referenced the prophecies of Isaiah. In Isaiah 42, God calls his servant and we begin to see a link between the Old Testament prophecies and the New Testament Messiah. God also reveals the link between his covenant, chosen people and his ultimate mission.

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- What are the nuances of being a servant? What characteristics does Isaiah indicate in using the term servant?
- Reread Isaiah 42:1-4. Think about Jesus' ministry. Identify stories in which you see the servant's characteristics described in these verses exemplified in Jesus and his ministry.
- Is there a type of person or a group of people that you struggle to recognize as a children of God, as part of God's chosen family?
- How are you reflecting God's kingdom in your life and community?
- How has Isaiah 42 helped you reflect on your sin, the necessity of a savior, and the work of salvation?

Related Passages

- **Luke 24:25-27**
- **Matthew 12:13-21**
- **Galatians 3:7-9**

Conclusion

Read John 12:27-50. After having studied Isaiah 42 and meeting Isaiah's "servant of the Lord," what similarities or differences do you see in this passage from John? What does it mean to you that Jesus himself says he has "come into the world as a light"?

Let the passages from John and Isaiah inform a prayer. Additionally, how might you adjust Isaiah 42:1-4 and 6-

7 to incorporate these verses into your prayer?

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