

"Without extinguishing the smoldering wick" Isaiah 42,1-9

Naoyuki Kawashima, Paster of IGM Kushiro, Shiratori, Fukagawa Church,

Hallelujah! Praise the name of the Lord.

1, The Servant of the Lord

1“Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him,
and he will bring justice to the nations.

Who does this "my servant, whom I uphold" mean?

Some say it refers to Isaiah, while others say it refers to the Persian king Cross, who liberated Israel from Babylonian captivity.

But as we know in the New Testament, that this "servant" is none other than the Savior Jesus Christ.

When Jesus entered the ministry, he was handed a scroll of Isaiah in the synagogue of Nazareth and read this passage.

16He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, **17**and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: **18**“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, **19**to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” **20**Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. **21**He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

700 years before the appearance of Jesus, the figure of "the servant of the Lord" prophesied by Isaiah was the figure of the Savior Jesus Christ (actually, the coming Messiah).

Jesus Christ abandoned the image of God, emptied himself, took the form of a servant, became like a man, lowered himself, and indeed obeyed the death on the cross.

Jesus said. **41**When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. **42**Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. **43**Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you

must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

In this world, I think people want to be served rather than to serve.

In the kingdom of God, however, who he will lower himself and the servants will rule the kingdom. This is called as the servant leadership. Jesus, the Lord's servant, showed us an example.

Proverbs at 18:12 says, ¹²Before a downfall the heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor. Humility leads to honor. Because God supports and rejoices in the Lord's servants. God rejects the proud and gives grace to the contempt. If anyone fights for power on their own, it will be ruined, and if they humble themselves before God, God will raise him high at the right time.



やり投げで銀メダルを獲得したマリア・アンドレイチュク【写真：AP】（AP）

The news was that a Polish athlete who won a silver medal in the javelin throw at the Tokyo Olympics put her silver medal up for auction.

The reason was that she learned that a eight-month-old boy had heart disease and needed to pay to go to the United States for surgery.

Maria herself suffered from osteosarcoma in 2018, and after undergoing surgery, she recovered and was able to win the silver medal this time, which was a great pleasure.

She states: "The true value of medals is always in our hearts.

A medal is just a thing, but it can be of great value to others.

This silver medal can save a person's life instead of wearing dust in the closet.

That's why I decided to auction this medal to help the sick child.

I was impressed by Maria's spirit of looking after others as well as herself.

And this spirit is exactly what we see in Jesus Christ.

Jesus lowered himself, emptied himself, and came to us in the form of his servant.

Indeed, Jesus obeyed the death on the cross, and by his Atonement we were made to forgive our sins and inherit eternal life.

We, who were saved by the Atonement of Jesus Christ, also have in our hearts the treasure of the indigenus Christ, which is more valuable than the silver medal.

If you just cherish the treasure, you will become a "bad lazy servant." The treasure is not for storage, but for use.

We Christ are servants of our beloved Lord Jesus.

I would like to serve the people around me voluntarily, happily, without being forced or reluctant.

2, quiet but patient

2He will not shout or cry out,

or raise his voice in the streets.

3A bruised reed he will not break,

and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.

In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;

4he will not falter or be discouraged

till he establishes justice on earth.

In his teaching the islands will put their hope."

This "Lord's servant seems to be a quiet person who doesn't make a lot of noise.

"He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets."

Recently, I don't hear much about it, probably because of Corona, but before, I heard a car that put a speaker on the roof and announced in a low voice of a man, "Repent, believe in Jesus Christ." I felt a little scared.

I don't think it's a bad thing to be enthusiastic, but instead of unilaterally disseminating information, I wanted those people to think about other person as well. From my own experience, even if I'm unilaterally annoyed, I don't think anything will be conveyed. Rather, it is the punch line that closes your ears and lowers the shutter in your heart.

Jesus Christ often said, "Listen to those who have ears."

Jesus is by no means the one who imposes his teachings and values on us.

Jesus speaks quietly and cherishes our listening attitude.

There is tranquility before God.

Human independence is nurtured in tranquility.

This quiet, unobtrusive attitude of the Lord's servant may seem unsatisfactory to some.

You might think, "I want you to say more aggressively."

But what about in the long run?

The Bible says that by continuing to approach quietly, but patiently, you can achieve solid results.

The Lord's servant is very patient.

"he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth."

Because he can carry out his work by the Holy Spirit of the Lord, not by power or by human ability.

There is a limit to how passionate people can be to stay enthusiastic, with or without results. Many people will be discouraged on the way.

But the Lord's servant does not lose his passion.

No matter how many times he fails and falls, he gets up again and moves forward.

It's seven falls and eight rises. Because God supports him.

The time has come for the servants of the Lord to finally establish the will of God by the zeal of the Lord of hosts.

However, people are weak. Pascal said that a person is "a reed that thinks."

Reeds are tall grasses that grow in wetlands.

The bamboo blinds made from reed stalks are called reed bamboo blinds and have been used for a long time. They are also ideal as roofing materials and are still used for re-roofing thatched-roof houses.

The reeds are easy to break, and if a strong force is applied, they will snap.

It seems that craftsmen sometimes broke and thrown away damaged reeds.

But the Lord's servant, Jesus Christ, does not break the damaged reeds.

Because the Lord Jesus cherishes and loves each and every one of them as much as he does.

He doesn't cut and throw away just because he looks useless.

He will support and protect the damaged area until it recovers.

Moses in the Old Testament has the image of a strong leader who has escaped Egypt with as many as two million people. The statue of Moses created by Michelangelo has two horns.

I think there was an image of tough looking guy.

However, reading the Bible reveals that Moses was, in fact, a shy and withdrawn person.

It was after the second half of my life, at the age of 80, that God called me, "Go now. Take the Israelites out of Egypt."

Already, his youthful passion was gone and he was laid back in the mountains of Horeb, taking care of his father-in-law's sheep.

But there, I see a mysterious sight. Even though the grass is burning, the fire never goes out.

As Moses approaches to see the mysterious sight, he will be challenged by God from the burning grass. His passion for saving his enslaved compatriots, given to him when he was young, has almost disappeared in the mundane days of 40 years. However, God rekindled the holy fire without extinguishing the smoldering wick.

The Bible says, "for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable." (Romans 11:29). Once God's promise, no matter how long it takes, it will always be fulfilled. That is because the Lord does not extinguish the smoldering wick without breaking the damaged reeds.

Moses repeatedly shrugs off God's calling, saying, "I am not a man of words." And "No one should listen to me." However, God gave him his brother Aaron, the god's wand, and the occasional help each time, and finally he was able to play a major role in Exodus.

Even with our small and weak faith, the Lord has taken good care of us so that the fire will not go out. When the fire is about to go out, let it reignite again with the Word or with the encouragement of those around us. God's patience is salvation. The God we believe in will never give up, never fail, and will protect, support, and guide us until we enter the kingdom of heaven. We should trust this person.

3, let's start with small matters section 57

⁵This is what God the Lord says—
the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out,
who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it,
who gives breath to its people,
and life to those who walk on it:
⁶"I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness;
I will take hold of your hand.
I will keep you and will make you
to be a covenant for the people
and a light for the Gentiles,
⁷to open eyes that are blind,
to free captives from prison
and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

At the beginning, I confirmed that the Lord's servant refers to the Savior Jesus Christ.

But at the same time, we are also called as small "servants of the Lord." God is God's work and has good deeds.

When I was in elementary school, I had an unusual classmate.

On my way home from school, I happen to be together and talk with him, and I can't forget what he said. "Unless everyone is happy, there can be no personal happiness."

I thought he said as if he was grown up, but that word remained in my consciousness.

Of course, it may be an ideal theory that everyone will be happy.

But the Bible says that God wants everyone to be saved and to know the truth.

As long as there are people in the world who are sad, I can't let go of it completely and rejoice. Of course, we should enjoy a given life.

But when we touch the sadness of the world, it directs us to pray to God.

The Bible says, " ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn." (Ro 12:15) and " ¹⁷A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity." (Proverbs 17:17).

It is good for us to be able to do something for the happiness of someone, and it is worth living. Even if only to live for myself, it is vain.

What can we do as a little "servant of the Lord" or as a little "Christ"?

We may not be able to do the fine work of a lighthouse that illuminates a ship sailing in the wide ocean.

But could we act like a small lamp that illuminates the table top?

Don't ask for big results from the beginning, first look for what you can do.

Any Christian can close the back door and pray the intercession before God for loved ones. Since God supports the Lord's servants, God also gives us the power to continue praying with patience.

We don't have to imitate the Lord and claim justice out loud. Instead, we can pray quietly.

I decided to write a letter to someone every day during the Corona disaster.

Emails and lines are convenient, but I think it's good to write letters and send your thoughts with your own hands.

We find something we can do, even small matters, and do it.

We are God's work, and the Lord has prepared good deeds.

Not by our own zeal, but by the zeal of the Lord of hosts, the anointing of the Holy Spirit, we can continue to fulfill the will of the Lord without being discouraged or weakened. I think such a life is very fulfilling. I hope that you will join us as a small "servant of the Lord" this week as part of God's work.

Isaiah 42 1-4

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