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Sermon Notes

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## **The Gentle King Establishes Justice on Earth**

### **Isaiah 42:1-25**

The history of the human race is dominated by the building of one vicious kingdom after another. These kingdoms have all been idolatrous to the core, erected to the praise and glory of sinful men who used conquest to etch their names in bloody monuments to their ambition. They delighted in the weakness of their enemies, and trampled them down like mud in the streets. This has been the essential nature of all human empires. But there came a stunning moment in history when a gentle Jewish carpenter stood on trial for his life before a ruler of the most powerful empire on earth and proclaimed a different kind of Kingdom than the world had ever seen. In effect, Jesus said to Pontius Pilate that day,

**“My Kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would have fought, because that’s how worldly kingdoms are built. But my Kingdom is from another place. My Kingdom is based on a quiet proclamation of truth, and everyone who delights in truth listens to me and enters my Kingdom. It was for this reason I was born, to speak transforming words of truth to anyone who will listen.”**

The nature of this King and the irresistible advance of his Kingdom were predicted over seven centuries before that day in the words of the prophecy we are studying right now—Isaiah 42. In this astounding chapter, the Lord introduces for the first time the character known as “the Servant of the Lord.” Four times in Isaiah, the person and work of Jesus Christ are identified by this title: Isaiah 42:1-7; 49:1-9; 50:4-9; 52:13-53:12). The interpretive challenge comes in the fact that, sometimes God identifies His people (Israel or Jacob) in this same way—“my servant” (cf. Isaiah 41:8-9; 43:10; 44:1-2, 21; 48:20). In some of those verses, God’s “servant,” Jacob or Israel, represent the godly remnant who are redeemed by God’s power. But even in this chapter, sometimes God’s “servant” is portrayed as sinfully rebellious, even blind and deaf (see

42:19). But the “Servant of the Lord” in those four passages above is a single individual, sent to do God’s will and save God’s people, through great suffering and against powerful opposition. This is the first of those four breathtaking prophecies. The term “Servant” emphasized how completely submissive Jesus would be to the will of the Father.

## I. The Gentle King and His Irresistibly Advancing Kingdom (vs. 1-7)

### A. The Lord Presents His Chosen Servant (vs. 1)

***Isaiah 42:1 "[BEHOLD] 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.***

1. “Behold”... the Servant’s sudden unveiling by God
2. Chosen from before the foundation of the world, but revealed at the perfect moment in time

***1 Peter 1:20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.***

***Revelation 13:8 the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.***

3. Anointed with the Holy Spirit to do the will of God in ways no one ever has before or since
  - a. The relationship between the Second and Third persons of the Trinity is an infinite mystery... but the NT presents us some amazing insights
  - b. Though we would think God the Son is omnipotent and needs no help to do anything, yet He did nothing apart from the will of His Father and apparently did nothing apart from the power of the Spirit... NO INDEPENDENCE AT ALL!!
  - c. By the Spirit, Jesus was identified to John the Baptist and to the Jewish nation as the Messiah and the Son of God at His baptism... when the Spirit descended as a dove
  - d. By the Spirit, Jesus was led into the desert to be tempted by the devil
  - e. By the Spirit, Jesus was led out of the desert to begin a perfect and powerful ministry of teaching and miracles

***Acts 10:38 God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.***

It seems Jesus did not a single miracle except by the power of the Spirit!

4. God DELIGHTS in His perfect Son!!!

John Piper wrote a book called *The Pleasures of God...* and devoted an entire chapter to this topic... the delight God the Father has in Jesus as the perfect reflection of His own glory

This delight God relates plainly to the human race verbally on two occasions... at his baptism, and on the Mount of Transfiguration

***Matthew 3:17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."***

Jesus Himself said:

***John 8:29 The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him."***

5. Jesus brings justice to the nations

a. The nations are languishing under the injustice of SATANIC domination under wicked HUMAN PUPPETS

b. Injustice rules this present evil age

Throughout the history of this sin-cursed planet, the strong have crushed the weak, depriving them of justice, imprisoning some unjustly, depriving the small and weak of healthy food and clean water, terrorizing people with corrupt policemen and wicked judges. God has written justice in the hearts of all human beings, so we are well aware when we are being treated unjustly. The distant islands wait for the reign of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, who alone can bring perfect justice.

B. The Quiet Gentleness of the Servant of the Lord (vs. 2-3)

***Isaiah 42:2-3 He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. <sup>3</sup> A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.***

1. Amazing how differently Jesus advances His Kingdom from the Empire builders whose exploits have trampled the pages of history with bloody and muddy boots!!

2. Jesus builds His Kingdom quietly, one sinner at a time, by the simple proclamation of the gospel message of salvation through repentance and faith in His name
3. He doesn't SHOUT or CRY OUT or RAISE HIS VOICE IN THE STREETS
  - a. Not like the Nazis jack-booted soldiers running through the cobblestoned streets of Europe, yelling "Shnell, shnell!!" at the sleeping populace and dragging them out into the streets to be abused and arrested
  - b. Not like the Communists revolutionaries in St. Petersburg, haranguing the populace with cries of revolution in the name of the proletariat, fanning the flames of revolution with bullies holding sticks ready to beat anyone who opposes them
  - c. Not like the heralds of a wicked duke or lord or prince or king whose master commanded them to gather the peasants and to cry aloud about a new series of taxes that would come close to crushing them
  - d. No such HARSH CRIES needed by Jesus and his messengers! Rather the still small voice of a peace with God that delivers Satan's former slaves into an eternal Kingdom of joy!!

***Vs. 3 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.***

4. One of the greatest descriptions of the gentleness of Jesus!! He is "gentle and humble in heart" and his yoke is easy and his burden is light
5. Q1: What is a "bruised reed"? And what does it mean that Jesus will not break it?
  - a. Picture a piece of marsh grass—a slender reed, green, broad-bladed, swaying weakly in the breeze... it blows here and there with every wind; it is not a mighty oak or a tall cedar, but a slender reed, a piece of grass buffeted and weak... but now, somehow it becomes even weaker—it is bruised, broken, creased in half and mostly severed; it is hanging by a tiny green thread, almost ready to fall entirely to the ground...
  - b. The "bruised reed" is a person, a sinner so crushed by sin, so pummeled by temptation, so abused by Satan's fierce accusations, so fragile in disposition, ready to cave in at any moment—a person at the end of his rope, barely able to face today's challenges, ready to curl up and die... the person MAY BE A CHRISTIAN or perhaps someone under the conviction of the Holy Spirit... in any case, a person breathtakingly weak
  - c. BUT JESUS WILL NOT BREAK this bruised reed!! See the Savior take this fragile reed in His amazingly gentle hands and bind it up... even miraculously reconnecting the severed green tubules that serve as the

plant's circulatory system (xylem and phloem); speaking of us, see how gently Jesus deals with brokenhearted sinners: "Take heart, son, your sins are forgiven!" "Take heart, daughter, your faith has healed you!" "Don't cry" (he said to the widow of Nain burying her only son) and then raised him from the dead...

- d. Jesus knows how to bring a brokenhearted sinner to full repentance and a deep joyful sense of forgiveness
  - e. Jesus also knows how to draw us through amazingly painful trials, things we thought we could never have endured... things you would say "I cannot bear any more!" and yet he skillfully knows how much you can bear and then will not break you, but gives you an inner strength until you are healed and strong again
6. Q2: What is a "smoldering wick"? And what does it mean that Jesus will not snuff it out?
- a. The "smoldering wick" is a candle about to be extinguished... it is putting off a lot of smoke, there is barely an ember glowing in the center of the wick... the slightest puff of air and it will be extinguished forever; it is the very picture of fragility
  - b. Again, this is a HUMAN BEING who is so crushed by the weight of life, the crushing weight of guilt and sin and trials and pain that he is about to be extinguished... he feels himself to be merely one step from the grave; the FIRE represents the WORK OF GRACE in his life... perhaps he is a Christian, but his own sinfulness and Satan's vicious accusations are about to extinguish him; perhaps he is going through extreme trials—the death of a wife or a child, the loss of a job or the agony of a possibly terminal illness; circumstances have worn the flickering flame of his piety and faith down to this... he is a SMOLDERING WICK... not a bonfire of piety and zeal for the glory of God
  - c. Jesus skillfully knows how to blow ever so gently on this smoldering wick, putting just the right amount of air on it until it ignites again visibly... then he can add more and more fuel—first, another wick, then some larger fuel until the work of grace in his heart is a raging fire of love for God, passion for His Kingdom
7. The overall message: Christ is the gentle and skillful physician of the soul... He is able to deal gently with weak and wounded sinners... by that amazing, supernaturally wise, astonishingly gentle power, He builds a worldwide empire of staggering size and eternal duration... one broken-hearted sinner at a time!! He is able to take you from the small beginnings of a weak immature faith through all the assaults of the world/flesh/devil until you are as strong as a MIGHTY OAK of righteousness, and he is able to breathe into you greater

and greater heat until your heart burns with a zeal for the glory of God, a raging fire of holiness that will burn for eternity

C. The Irresistible Advance of His Kingdom (vs. 3-4)

***Isa 42:3 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;***

***4 he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his law the islands will put their hope."***

1. The advance of this Kingdom of Christ is IRRESISTABLE... but it overcomes ASTONISHING OBSTACLES!
2. It says he will not "falter or be discouraged"... that implies the arduous journey of gospel advance from person to person, from one bruised reed to the next, from one smoldering wick to the next... in one hostile kingdom after another... Jesus has been reaching unreached people groups for almost 20 centuries now...
3. His goal is to bring forth JUSTICE to the ends of the earth
  - a. Justice = right relationship with God ("justified by faith")
  - b. Justice = right dealings with other people... harmonious society in which the golden rule is constantly lived out
  - c. He will advance this kingdom IN FAITHFULNESS... he will never grow weary of it, nor will he hold back... he will BRING FORTH JUSTICE by means of HIS LAW... his wisdom in his word... like the Great Commission...
  - d. For his LAW the ISLANDS are hoping... they are yearning for JUSTICE... no longer the tyranny of oppressive governments or criminal elements or poverty or other forms of injustice... most of all, they are yearning to be done with their OWN SINS as well!!

D. The Sovereign Power of Almighty God Guarantees this Success (vs. 5-7)

***Isa 42:5-7 This is what God the LORD says-- he who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and all that comes out of 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, 7 to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.***

1. The God who created heaven and earth is putting his OMNIPOTENCE behind the spread of this gentle Kingdom, and it CANNOT FAIL

2. He is the same one who gives breath to every person on the face of the earth
3. He controls the movements of those who WALK on the face of the earth
4. He (God the Father) speaks to God the Son (Jesus Christ) and tells him of his calling... God has called Jesus in righteousness, and He will take hold of Jesus' right hand (i.e. lead Him step by step)...
5. God has made Jesus a COVENANT for the people (Jesus said his blood is the blood of the New Covenant by which all our sins are forgiven) and a LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES... opening blind eyes and freeing captives from the prison of sin!
6. NOTHING WILL STOP THIS KINGDOM FROM ADVANCING!!

## II. The Message of the Kingdom Results in Joyful Praise (vs. 8-12)

### A. The Message of the Kingdom: The Holiness and Glory of the Lord (vs. 8)

***Isa 42:8 "I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols.***

1. God makes His claim to EXCLUSIVITY... again, over the idols... nothing in all creation is even close to Almighty God
2. The glory that is His alone—the glory of being GOD—he will not share with another
3. But notice that He DOES share it with Jesus!!

***Hebrews 1:3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.***

***John 17:5 And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.***

4. So therefore Jesus MUST BE GOD!!

### B. The Credibility of the Messenger: A Track Record of Fulfillment (vs. 9)

***Isa 42:9 Behold, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you."***

1. God has an amazing track record of making prophecies that have come true!
2. He predicted the flood of Noah and it happened; he predicted that Abraham would have a son and it happened; he predicted that Abraham would have descendants as numerous as the stars of the sky and it happened; he predicted

that Abraham's descendants would be enslaved in a country not their own for 400 years, then would come out of that nation after that nation had been punished... and the Jews would live in the Promised Land... and all of that happened!!

3. Even in Isaiah's day, many prophecies had already been fulfilled: he predicted that the Assyrians would not conquer Jerusalem—not enter it or shoot an arrow there, and it happened just as He said; he has predicted the Babylonian exile, and the subsequent fall of Babylon to Cyrus the Great... and those things will all take place
4. BUT NOW... in this chapter and beyond, God is announcing something far greater than all of that... he is announcing the coming of the Savior of the World, the Servant of the Lord Jesus Christ
5. Before it happens, God is announcing it to the world... his track record of fulfilling the words of his prophets guarantees success of this prophecy as well
6. The Servant of the Lord (Jesus Christ) will most certainly come and extend the Kingdom of God to the distant islands

#### C. The Joyful Response to the Message (vs. 10-12)

***Isa 42:10-12 Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you islands, and all who live in them. 11 Let the desert and its towns raise their voices; let the settlements where Kedar lives rejoice. Let the people of Sela sing for joy; let them shout from the mountaintops. 12 Let them give glory to the LORD and proclaim his praise in the islands.***

1. The response must be PRAISE FROM THE ENDS OF THE EARTH!!
2. The saved in those distant islands will be so filled with joy at this gentle, skillful Savior and the marvelously just law He brings that they will SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG
3. Those who go down to the sea are sailors... they will sail to the uttermost parts of the earth singing the praises of God and of His Christ; The distant islands and the desert towns will pick up the song and sing it too!!
4. Beautifully, the SETTLEMENTS of KEDAR and the PEOPLE OF SELA will sing for joy over this Savior who comes from the Jews!
  - a. Kedar is (according to Genesis 25:13) the firstborn son of Ishmael—the father of the Arab nations who dwell in the desert... so the Arabs will have some elect who will come to Christ and worship him!! Ishmael was banished from the camp of Abraham because he could not share the inheritance with the chosen son Isaac... but Abraham prayed for his son Ishmael, and in the kind providence of God, some of the descendants of



KEDAR will be in heaven praising Jesus... they are presently MUSLIMS... but many of them will turn to Christ

- b. Sela is the capital city of Edom... again, the Edomites represent the rejected people, bypassed for the benefit of the elect; but from their descendants come some from Sela who will SING FOR JOY at the salvation that Christ alone brings
5. This is nothing less than the WORLDWIDE SPREAD of the gospel to every tribe and language, people and nation! Some from every one of them will be around the throne of God worshiping the Lamb of God!

### III. The Zeal of the Warrior God Rescues His Captive People (vs. 13-17)

#### A. The Terrifying Zeal of a God Who Is No Longer Silent (vs. 13-15)

***Isa 42:13 The LORD will march out like a mighty man, like a warrior he will stir up his zeal; with a shout he will raise the battle cry and will triumph over his enemies. 14 "For a long time I have kept silent, I have been quiet and held myself back. But now, like a woman in childbirth, I cry out, I gasp and pant. 15 I will lay waste the mountains and hills and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn rivers into islands and dry up the pools.***

1. The apparent silence of God is one of the great challenges we face in the world... so often the godly people of the world wonder why this amazingly powerful God is so silent and seems to do nothing when great injustices are occurring and when God's people are so thoroughly abused in the world... WHY ARE YOU SO SILENT O GOD??!!
2. Suddenly, that silence will come to an end! God waits patiently for people to repent and for the perfect time for Him to work out His salvation plan... then... God SCREAMS ALOUD and RIPS HISTORY APART to bring about his victory!!
3. God is here presented in two opposite images: a mighty warrior marching out in zeal to win a great victory and a woman in childbirth writhing in agony
4. What do they have in common? NOISE and FINAL VICTORY! The mighty warrior SHOUTS WITH A BATTLE CRY and wins a triumph over his enemy
5. His power is awesome... He is able to lay waste mountains and dry up all vegetation; he is able to turn rivers into islands and dry up the pools

#### B. The Purpose of His Zeal: Rescue of His People (vs. 16)

***Isa 42:16 I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.***

1. Ultimate purpose of this powerful warrior's battle cry? Of this scream of a woman in labor? To bring about the SALVATION OF HIS PEOPLE
2. Immediately, he will restore the Jews to the Promised Land after their Exile to Babylon... He will crush the Babylonians through the Persians and set the Jewish captives free
3. Ultimately, this is a picture of SALVATION IN JESUS.... He alone can give sight to those who were formerly blind; He is the light of the world! He alone can lead captives from prison to heaven; He alone is the WAY THE TRUTH THE LIFE leading people to heaven
4. Jesus is the one who says "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU!"
5. SO the mighty warrior stirring up his zeal with a battle cry and winning the victory over his enemies is Christ; he is also like a woman crying out in labor to give birth to spiritual children

#### C. The Final Shame of Those Who Trust in Idols (vs. 17)

***Isa 42:17 But those who trust in idols, who say to images, 'You are our gods,' will be turned back in utter shame.***

This is a final warning to all who chose to reject this message and this salvation!!

#### IV. The Shameful Condition of God's Sinful People (vs. 18-25)

The chapter ends with a powerful explanation of why God's chosen people, the Jews, were in such a dire situation to begin with. In this section of his prophecy, Isaiah was writing to Judah and Jerusalem before the fall into idolatry during the reign of Manasseh that would result in their degrading exile to Babylon.

##### A. The Shameful Blindness and Deafness of God's People (vs. 18-20)

***Isa 42:18 "Hear, you deaf; look, you blind, and see! 19 Who is blind but my servant, and deaf like the messenger I send? Who is blind like the one committed to me, blind like the servant of the LORD? 20 You have seen many things, but have paid no attention; your ears are open, but you hear nothing."***

1. Israel was called on by God to be his Servant, his messenger nation in the world

- a. Note: the word “servant” here refers not to the Servant of the Lord passages meaning Jesus
- b. Israel should have been God’s servant and messenger...
2. But because Israel went after the gods of the Canaanites, they became spiritually blind and deaf...
3. Their blindness and deafness was WILLFUL... they refused to see the glory of God in the words he sent them through Moses and the Prophets
4. Christ fulfilled the calling to be God’s Servant and Messenger to the Gentiles because Israel had become blind and deaf
5. The blindness and deafness of Israel was WORSE than that of the lost Gentile nations because of the BRILLIANCE and GLORY of God’s holy Law given them through Moses

B. The Glory of God’s Law (vs. 21)

***Isa 42:21 It pleased the LORD for the sake of his righteousness to make his law great and glorious.***

***Psalm 19:7-11 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. <sup>8</sup> The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. <sup>9</sup> The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous. <sup>10</sup> They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. <sup>11</sup> By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.***

- . The blindness of the Jewish nation was more despicable than the blindness of the Gentiles, because God had made his law glorious within their midst, shining with the truth of his will. (vs. 21) If there are two blind men, and one is in a dark cave and the other in a brilliantly-lit room, the blindness of the second is more clearly revealed than that of the first. So, by having the blessings of the Law of Moses and of a steady stream of prophets who courageously proclaimed the truth of God’s law, the blindness and deafness of Israel was exposed. So, too, were their rebellious hearts, which refused to obey the gloriously beautiful commands of God.

C. The Plundering of Jacob God's Just Punishment for Sin (vs. 22-25)

The events that occurred, including the total destruction of Jerusalem, the slaughter of all but a remnant of Jews, and the razing of the magnificent Temple where God had put his glory, all those events were absolutely

humiliating to the Jews. But what is worse, they could mislead observers into misunderstanding God's purposes. It was not that God was powerless to stop the Babylonians, or didn't see them coming. No, actually, God *brought* the Babylonians to exact judgment on his blind and dead "servant," Israel.

***Isa 42:22 But this is a people plundered and looted, all of them trapped in pits or hidden away in prisons. They have become plunder, with no one to rescue them; they have been made loot, with no one to say, "Send them back." 23 Which of you will listen to this or pay close attention in time to come? 24 Who handed Jacob over to become loot, and Israel to the plunderers? Was it not the LORD, against whom we have sinned? For they would not follow his ways; they did not obey his law. 25 So he poured out on them his burning anger, the violence of war. It enveloped them in flames, yet they did not understand; it consumed them, but they did not take it to heart.***

Many of the Jews upon their return from Exile had forgotten that the Exile itself had been God's just punishment for sins... they HATED the Persians, then the Greeks, then the Romans... and forgot that God was using them to punish the Jews for sins

They DID NOT TAKE TO HEART the lessons... God had not become weak or impotent; He wasn't asleep at the switch; he wasn't defeated by the superior gods of the Romans...NO... GOD DID THIS... as He said He would through Moses:

***Deuteronomy 32:29-31 If only they were wise and would understand this and discern what their end will be! <sup>30</sup> How could one man chase a thousand, or two put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them, unless the LORD had given them up? <sup>31</sup> For their rock is not like our Rock, as even our enemies concede.***

Even to this day, the city of Jerusalem is under the partial domination of Gentile powers... it is what Jesus called the "times of the Gentiles"... as the Jews bow and pray before the Wailing Wall, do they understand why the destruction of the city took place? Or are they fulfilling the very words of Isaiah 42:25?

## V. Applications

The central application of this magnificent chapter is to embrace the humble and gentle King, Jesus Christ, and by faith enter his Kingdom. Jesus is the fulfillment of these words, as Matthew 12:15-21 makes plain. There, Matthew finds Jesus' healings coupled with his warnings not to tell who he was, as direct fulfillments of Isaiah 42:1-4. So must we read this chapter with an eye to Jesus Christ alone. And all Scripture is given to make us "wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." (2 Timothy 3:15)

Beyond this, we must embrace the gentleness of Jesus in dealing with sinners like us. We have such a very difficult time believing God loves us when we're so sinful. We are beaten down by our sins and by the challenges of life in a cursed world. Sometimes, we feel like we're barely holding on by a slender green thread. We feel like the work of grace in our hearts is a flickering, smoldering, smoky fire just about to be extinguished. We must learn to trust the exquisite skill of Jesus in dealing with us. He knows exactly how to bind up our broken hearts, how to fan into a more vigorous flame the work of grace within us. When we are feeling completely worthless, frail, and weak, we should read this text and flee again to Christ.

This should also teach pastors and other Christians how to deal with one another, especially those feeling guilty for sin. We must learn to be skillful and gentle in counseling sinners to a vigorous and healthy walk with Christ. It's so easy to be judgmental and harsh in a toxic self-righteous way. These verses teach us to be as gentle with brokenhearted sinners as Jesus has been with us.

It would be well worth the effort for everyone to read (or reread!) the magnificent meditation on the gentleness of Christ by the Puritan Richard Sibbes entitled *The Bruised Reed*. Few writings have ever been so encouraging to brokenhearted sinners!

In addition, this chapter teaches us to worship Jesus, singing praise songs to him for the glory of the salvation he's worked in our lives. We should fill our mouths every day with words and songs of praise, walking in joy and speaking thanksgiving at all times.

For all of this, however, we must not underestimate how much power Christ exerts every day as a mighty warrior to destroy his enemies and rescue his chosen people. Christ is a gentle Savior but a terrifying adversary. Let us fear the Lord, and warn rebellious sinners of the coming wrath.

Finally, we should delight in the spread of the gospel to the distant islands, including the Arab nations who are descended from Ishmael. Though most people living in these regions are presently hostile to the gospel of Jesus Christ, yet the clear intention of God in this chapter is that Christ will establish his gentle and righteous Kingdom to the ends of the earth. So Christians should continue to give full exertion to the spread of the gospel, even in Muslim nations and in hard to reach places.

