

Besides Me There Is No Savior
Isaiah 42:18-25; 43:11-12
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what we can learn from man's faults and God's mercy.

Intro: 1. Is there ever a reason to have an attitude of apathy towards God?

I. The Spiritually Blind & Deaf (Isa 42:18-25)

A. The blind and deaf are called out (Isa 42:18-21)

1. Rhetorical questions are asked? Who does such things? The wicked (**v.18-20**)
2. It pleased the Lord to magnify the Law and to make it honorable (**v.21**)
 - a. The law included commands, promises and penalties.
 - b. In order to magnify the law, it's penalties for violating God's commands must be executed.

B. The result of the people's actions (Isa 42:22-25)

1. The people described as being robbed and plundered (**v.22-23**)
2. It was the Lord who was punishing them (**v.24-25a**)
3. The people were so calloused they did not recognize God's wrath or His mercy (**v.25b**).

II. Israel's punishment & God's mercy

A. Israel was punished yet God was merciful to them (Isa 43:1-7)

1. Following their punishment (ch.42) God was merciful to them (**v.1**)
2. There were many trials they would face yet God promises to be with them (**v.2-7**)

B. God challenged Israel (v.8-13)

1. Jehovah called His people to a court room to open their eyes and ears of its dull and hardhearted disposition (**43:8**).
2. Secondly, Jehovah called the nations to the courtroom as well. This was what the Lord did in *Isaiah 41:1*.
3. The Lord challenged the heathens once again to produce a god that could actually declare the former things and bring witnesses that all may believe. Again, this would not happen, and, therefore, Jehovah said if there was no justification in idolatry, then let all "hear, and say, It is truth" (that is, the word of God is truth alone) (**43:9**).
4. The Lord's witnesses were a multitude. Israel had seen and known of Jehovah's miraculous acts of deity from of old, and, therefore, the Lord called His people to remember the former days (**43:10**).
5. Jehovah had ever stood and acted alone (**43:11-13**)

III. Jehovah shows his power to remove obstacles while redeeming His people (43:14-21)

A. Jehovah again speaks as if the event had already taken place.

Just as sure as Israel would be in Babylonian captivity was the fact that He would deliver them (**43:14-15**)!

1. The people of the city (v.14) will be brought down.
2. Being the Creator He will deliver the people as He sees fit.

- B. The Lord will create a path for them v.16 and put out those who stand in the way
(43:16-17)
- C. v.18 - they are encouraged to stop looking to the past and realize the Lord will provide the pathway (v.19).
- D. The animals of the field and creatures of the desert are pictured as honoring Jehovah.
(v.20-21)

III. Israel's Apathetic attitude & the Grace of Jehovah (v.22-28)

- 1. Verse 22; God has the power save the people yet they are apathetic and unmotivated to take advantage of God's saving power.
- 2. Verse 23-25; The people are not bringing the sacrifices they were supposed to be bringing. They were being disobedient (v.23)
God is not asking to much of them yet the are disobedient and not obeying Him (v.24).
They seem to have forgotten that it is God who blots out their sins (v.25).
- 3. V.26; First they are told to remember who He is!
 - a. Then they are told to plead their case. Why you are behaving like this? State your case!
 - b. Perhaps they will be acquitted, that is they will have no fault found in them.
- 4. V.27-28;
 - a. Israel condition is considered (v.27); From their father Jacob to the present the people have been encouraged by example and precept to transgress the divine law.
 - b. V.28; The people themselves are still responsible, they cannot place the blame on someone else, despite their best efforts to do so.
 - a. Other prophets and teachers had taught them faithfully.
 - b. The princes which may refer to royal rulers or leaders in the sanctuary; they should have been holy, consecrated to the Lord's work.
 - c. The Lord would punish them by sending them to Babylon, a profane or unclean land and kingdom.
 - d. Eventually he will make Jacob a curse, that is assign him to destruction and Israel would suffer reproach.

IV. Lessons for Us Today

- A. We need to the proper attitude towards God's grace and mercy.
 - 1. We must never be those who decay to the point of having an attitude of apathy towards God.
 - 2. God and what He desires from us must be our top priority and never viewed as a burden (1 Jn 5:3)
- B. God's compassion and leniency is a sign of mercy.
 - 1. The people sinned and while God punished them He did not punish them to the extent they deserved.
 - 2. Why did God show mercy towards them, because who loved them and wanted them to return.

Application & Conclusion:

1. We must check our attitude and if it's not what pleases God we must work to change it.
2. What if God had the same attitude towards you? Think that attitude would still include mercy?
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11-12, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent & Pray: James 5:16, 1 John 1:9