

3/3/77

Chapel Isa. 42:14

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and doing it effectively, he will not simply cast aside, but He will show mercy, kindness and help, and not break the bruised reed. Till he has set justice in the earth and the isles shall wait for His law."

What a contrast! This slow steady peaceable progress of our Lord Jesus as he headed toward the cross where He gave himself for man sins, and this picture which at first sight seems like someone just throwing up a tare in vv.13-15. What a contrast and yet ~~these~~ they are two aspects of God's character. After all Jesus Christ is God. Jesus Christ went into the place of the money changes and upset their tables and said, Will you make my Father's house a house of merchandise?@

I heard Dean Brown of Yale who was at that time head of Yale Divinity School give a talk on how he felt about the fact that always in our pictures we show Jesus simply as the gentle shepherd and how that is true, but he said, Why not occasionally show Him with his stick uplifted to drive away the bears, the wolves that were about ~~to~~ to tare the sheep and ~~to~~ destroy them. They are both aspects of God's activity and we need to recognize them both. As we study this part of Isaiah we find there are three strands in it that are interwoven.

There is the one strand of God's dealings with Israel. God is dealing with His people whom he wants to lead so they will love and serve Him. We show the kindly heart of God shown in many passages, but look particularly for a minute at the end of ch. 43. He says, This people have I formed for myself, they shall shew forth my praise. Ch. 43:21, but thou has not called upon me O Jacob, thou hast been weary of me O Israel. Thou hast not brought me the small cattle of thy brunt offerings, neither hast thou honored me with thy sacrifices. I have not caused thee to serve with an offering nor wearied thee with incense. V.25, I even I am he that blotteth out thy transgression for mine own sake. I will not remember thy sins. Put me in remembrance, let us plead together. Declare thou that thou mayest be ~~do~~ justified."

Some people have the idea of God as if He was some sort of a great force that ordained all things and it is all set and rigid and he's not affected by anything that happens. That's not the picture in the Bible. God has emotions. God has feelings. And you see a picture of His being here as He sorrows over his people who that fail to follow him for their good. He pleads with them to do His will. God is interested in every one of us. He is interested in all that happens in our lives. He longs that we might follow Him. There is joy in heaven over one sinner that repents more than over 50 just persons that need no repentance our Lord says. Now of course there are no just persons who need no repentance. That's a figure of speech, but it's a declaration of the fact that God has real emotion, real feelings. He has feelings as strong as the emotions that are shown in the verses particularly here.

But you notice how He continues at the end of v. 43. After saying in v. 26, Put me in remembrance, let us plead together. Declare thou that thou mayest be justified. Then he lashes out at them. "Thy first ~~forefathers~~ fathers have sinned and thy teachers have transgressed against me. Therefore I have profaned the princes