

Sermon ~ Sunday, February 13, 2021, by Pastor Dwight Benoit

Text: Isaiah 49: 1-4

Title: "Is There a Servant in the House?"

Servant, *diakonos* (dee-ak'-on-os), is one who performs any service. *Dia'*, "thoroughly" and "*konis*, "dust" – properly, "thoroughly raising up dust by moving in a hurry, and so to minister.

True "servants" are those inspired by **The LORD**, to carry out **HIS purpose** –

The Gospel of JESUS CHRIST, that Salvation may be offer and souls made free from *sin*!

"Is There a Servant in the House?"

Servant, Milton Brunson expresses this in song, "I'm Available to YOU!"

YOU gave me my hands to reach out to man,
to show them **YOUR LOVE** and **YOUR** perfect plan.
YOU gave me my ears, I can hear **YOUR VOICE** so clear,
I can hear the cries of *sinners* but cannot wipe away their tears.

LORD, I'm available to **YOU**. My will I give to **YOU**. I'll do what **YOU** say to.
Use me **LORD** to show someone the way and enable me to say,
My storage is empty, and I am available to **YOU!**

Use me **LORD** to show someone the way, and enable me to say,
My storage is empty, and I am available to **YOU!**
My storage is empty, and I am available to **YOU!**
To **YOU, YOU,**
My storage is empty, and I am available to **YOU!**

"Is There a Servant in the House?"

Servants, give their lives to *causes* that *count*. Servants sense that what they do matters to **GOD**. Only then, do they feel deep satisfaction, when all else seems to fell.

This *text* is the cry of many who endeavor to serve **GOD**. It's a *complaint*, if you will, when service seems *wasted*, when your work seems in *vain*. *But* we are wrong when we read the last part of our *text*. Our *text* puts **Divine perspective** on our service to **The LORD**.

Let me point out...

- *Isaiah* means, "**The Salvation of JEHOVAH.**" [JEHOVAH, Hebrew Name for **GOD, WHO saves...** *Isaiah* was saved by **JEHOVAH GOD**. He was from a leading family, he was married, had family (two sons, 7: 3 and 8: 1-3). He was *called* of **GOD**, to Preach **GOD'S WORD**, [it got him in trouble, and it got him out, most of the times.] Yet, tradition tells us he was "sawn asunder" – *saw* in two by wicked King Manasseh (Hebrew 11: 37).

"Is There a Servant in the House?"

- The Book of Isaiah is divided into two sections: The first section: Chapters 1-39, which *warns* (Jews) about impending Assyrian invasion upon **GOD’S** people (Judah). The main theme, “**GOD** chastening because of *sin*. The second section, Chapters 40-66, encouraging the captives returning from Babylonian captivity. The main theme, **GOD’S consolation** [comfort] to **HIS** children after *suffering* and *returning* home again.
- The meat on the bone of our *text*, is **The Suffering Servant**, that Isaiah makes 17 references in the Book: 13 of these, “the Nation is in view”, but in 4, **JESUS CHRIST** is in view.

When we feel we have a *Complaint*, we, many, run to Isaiah 41: 8-10, for *Comfort*...

“But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom **I** have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend... Thou art **MY servant**; **I** have chosen thee, and not cast thee away. Fear thou not; for **I AM** with thee; be not dismayed; for **I AM** thy **GOD**: **I** will strengthen thee, yea, **I** will help thee: yea, **I** will uphold thee with the right hand of **MY** righteousness.” [V. 8, said, that’s Israel!]

In Isaiah 42: 18-20, it says, “Hear ye deaf; and look, ye blind, that ye may see. Who is blind but **MY** servant, or deaf as **MY** messengers whom **I** send? Who is blind as **MY** dedicated one, or blind as the servant of **The LORD**? He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear.”

Now how does this fit us! Like Israel, we have been benefited in every way...

The LORD called us... from the *outhouse* to your *house* to the *White House*, from *walking* to *ridding* to *driving*, from *rages* to *riches*... **The LORD** has *blessed* us while others *cursed* us.

The LORD has *equipped* us to be **HIS servant** in this world. But *how often* have we *shrugged* that off. *How often* have we lost our way? *How often* we have *forgotten* our “baptismal identity and birth into **The Church of GOD through JESUS CHRIST** and now living like the world.”

Like Israel, we too have been a deaf and blind servant.

“Is There a Servant in the House?”

The *text*,

Common Complaint – V. 4, “I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for naught, and in vain.” We work, labor, toil, yet the *results* seem so small and disappointing. So, we conclude we have served **The LORD** in “vain.” [Point: Doing right can be discouraging at times.]

Service results often do not show quickly or conspicuously (clearly). This causes us to make the “vain” conclusions. It causes many to *quit*, verses, “fulfilling, The Calling to Service.”

Just what Satan wants.

See the Correction in the *text*. “Yet surely my judgment is with **The LORD** and my work with my **GOD**. We need the “yet,” in our conclusions. It will stop much of our complaining. Note, the two “yet” about this service... “Yet surely my judgment is with **The LORD**...” – “Yet, my work is with my **GOD**.” “Yet,” adverb, meaning, up until the present, up till now... If you have these two “yet” in your thinking, it will keep you going when all around you says to quit.

See the Appraisal in the *text*. “My judgment is with **The LORD**.” **GOD is The ONE WHO** determines whether or not we have labored in “vain.” Let **GOD** be your **APPRAISOR** not your *Appraiser*! **APPRIASOR**, is **ONE WHO** estimates officially the worth or value or quality of things—by **JESUS CHRIST**. *Appraiser*, is one who carries out a formal assessment of one’s performance—by people or yourselves.

See the Reward in the *text*. "Work." The word "work" is translated in the *text* is "*Reward*". A "reward," is given in recognition of one's service. [Award, is giving as an official payment, compensation, or prize.] Our text says our "reward" is from **GOD**.
Serving The LORD will pay off after while.

Serving The LORD will pay off after while. (2x's)
Oh Yeah,
Just keep on working each and everyday, whatever is right,
GOD said **HE** would pay.
Serving The LORD will pay off after while.

I got to keep on working, Yes, I have.
Cause I want my starry crown.
I know that my way will get brighter,
Even though my friends sometimes let me down.
And O What a time it will be when my **SAVIOR**,
My **SAVIOR** face I see.
Serving The LORD will pay off after while.