

Texts, ESV: Mark 16.15; Isaiah 42.1-7

i. We've been looking at the church, or *The Gathering*

a We're going to explore what we *DO* as a Gathering, our *mission*

b *Missio Dei*, divine mission or mission of God, We start with *Messiah's Mission*

ii. Mark 16.15: We must KNOW & DO Messiah's Mission, it takes both

a We're called to spread the Gospel worldwide, to take the Gospel to all people

b God's plan of salvation is intended to reach "the whole creation"

Robert Webber spent his career teaching down the road at Wheaton College, but his thoughts affected the global Church: "The church's mission is to show the world what it looks like when a community of people live under the reign of God. The true gospel is portrayed best by the community that believes it, embodies it, and testifies to it in the midst of any given culture in all places and at all times."¹

c Messiah's Mission, our Church mission, is prophesied in the Hebrew Bible

iii. Isaiah 42.1: God seems to be taking counsel with Himself

a The language hints at more than 1 member of the Godhead, NT Trinity²

b God is speaking, and refers to both His "servant" (Son) and to His "Spirit"

c This is also a well-known and beloved Messianic prophecy

1 This passage is a prophecy about *Messiah's Mission*

2 Messiah is called "servant . . . my chosen" or "mine elect" (KJV, verse 1)

3 God "delights" in His Servant, God is pleased or satisfied with Him

d This description sets the Messiah apart from other leaders in Isaiah's time

iv. "I have put my Spirit upon him" (verse 1)

a The Holy Spirit would rest upon the Messiah in a new and powerful way

b HS would be empower the Messiah in a way unseen in Israel's history

c The Spirit's power would also signal the beginning of a new era

d With the coming of the Messiah, the Spirit would indwell God's people

Williams: "The Messiah would surpass all others in the manifoldness of His anointing, the breadth of His calling, and the results to be achieved. Under the continuing enablement of the Holy Spirit He would carry forward His total ministry."³

¹ Robert E. Webber, *The Younger Evangelicals: Facing the Challenges of the New World* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2002), 133.

² Tertullian, *Against Praxes* xi

³ J. Rodman Williams, *Renewal Theology: Salvation, the Holy Spirit, and Christian Living* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1990), 162.

v. With the Messiah, the Spirit ushers in a new era and new people

- a There are no longer boundaries between nations and races
- b Messiah, under HS power, crosses lines, reaches nations (verse 1)
 - 1 "nations" is also translated as the "Gentiles"
 - 2 Gentiles or nations refers to all nations, other than Israel
- c When we hear the word *Nations*, we think of *countries*
 - 1 *Countries* with political boundaries don't exist until the late Middle Ages
 - 2 *Nations* is like our term "*people groups*". . . we need to hear this today
- d When Messiah arrives, the Spirit begins His mission to reach everyone

vi. Isa 42.2-5: Messiah's Mission to the Nations is proclaimed

- a Isa 42.6: "The LORD," lit. Jehovah or *the existing one* . . . calls the Messiah
 - 1 "The Call" of Messiah is to a ministry of "righteousness" or justice
 - 2 God takes the hand of Messiah, strengthens or empowers His ministry
- b Messiah's Mission, the hope of Israel, also encompasses the "nations"

vii. A new "covenant" is to be established with the Nations (verse 6)

- a God made covenants before, but mainly with Israel and her ancestors
- b In the same way, this is an alliance, a pledge of God to the Gentile Nations
- c This is NOT a contract between 2 consenting parties
 - 1 It's a covenant between God and man
 - 2 Even if the Nations do not respond . . . even if people groups turn away
- d Isa 42.6-7: God declares Messiah will shine the "light" of salvation
 - 1 Light will "open the eyes that are blind" (verse 7)
 - 2 Light will and dispel the bondage of spiritual "darkness" (verse 7)
- e Part of *Messiah's Mission* is to cut a covenant with nations, every people group

Prayer

- 1 Do we *Know* the Great Commission? Are we *DOING* the Great Commission?
- 2 Are we allowing the Spirit to lead us forward as we explore our mission?
- 3 Are we following the Messiah's Mission to reach every nation and people-group?

Benediction: Instead of a *Benediction* today, I would like to read what an EC leader says about Isaiah 42. Let's consider it our *Benediction*:

"He [our Lord] does not esteem the rich person more highly than the poor, nor does he despise the poor person for his poverty. He does not disdain the barbarian, nor does he set the eunuch aside as no man. He does not hate the female on account of the woman's act of disobedience in the beginning, nor does

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he reject the male on account of the man's transgression. But he seeks all and desires to save all, wishing to make all the children of God and calling all the saints to one perfect human person. For there is one Son (or Servant) of God."⁴

⁴ Hippolytus, *On The Antichrist* iii.17