

God's Beloved Servant

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 12:14-21.
- B. Jesus is called the Beloved Servant.
- C. There were many responses to Jesus during His ministry.
- D. God is saying the very opposite about Christ than what the world is saying.
- E. The word behind servant refers to a chief, intimate servant. (Genesis 24, 41:10, Job 4)
- F. Jesus is the benefactor of God's highest form of love. (Colossians 1, John 1:1, John 17)

II. The Beloved Servant was condemned by false servants. (Psalm 2)

III. The Beloved Servant was conformed to God's plan. (John 5)

- A. He gave Himself to death in line with God's plan.
- B. He told the people He healed not to make it known. (Matthew 8:4, 9:30)
 - 1. He did not want false things spread about Him. He wanted the people to have their own first-hand conclusions.
 - 2. He did not want to be known simply as a miracle worker.
 - 3. He knew that the works could fan a revolution against Rome.
 - 4. He wanted to mitigate the angst of the religious leaders.
 - 5. Jesus knew that this was the time of His humiliation and not exaltation.

IV. The Beloved Servant was concerned for the needy.

- A. He healed those who did not necessarily believe in Him. (Luke 17)
- B. The true shepherd was moved with compassion. (Zechariah 11, Isaiah 42:1-4)

V. The Beloved Servant was commended by the Father. (Hebrews 1, Isaiah 49, Luke 23:33, I Peter 2:4)

A. Jesus is pleasing to the Father.

B. Man is not pleasing to God. (Romans 8:8)

VI. The Beloved Servant was commissioned by the Spirit. (Isaiah 42, Luke 1, Matthew 1:20)

A. There was a granting of power to Jesus' human nature.

B. His human nature needed the power of the Spirit to live in concert with His deity.

C. There was a special anointing for His service. (Isaiah 61:1)

VII. The Beloved Servant was communicating the message.

A. He was bringing out the message of rightness—the gospel.

B. He would bring it to the entire world. (Mark 3:8, Acts 22:21)

VIII. The Beloved Servant was committed to weakness.

A. He had dignity yet meekness.

B. He was not a rabble-rouser. (Ecclesiastes 9:17)

IX. The Beloved Servant was characterized by comforting the weak.

X. The Beloved Servant will consummate the victory.

XI. Conclusion.

A. The human race is destructive, but God gives life. We must come to Jesus Christ to receive life.

B. We should be concerned with the same thing that Jesus was—being occupied with the Father, commissioned by the Spirit, etc.

Application questions:

1. How does Jesus stand out against the rest of the human race as the Beloved Servant?

2. Which aspects of Jesus' ministry (miracles aside) are most difficult to reproduce in your own life? Explain.

3. What does it look like for the modern believer to be conformed to the plan of God? Explain.
