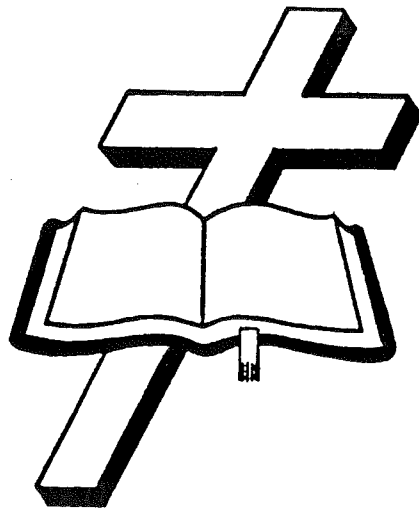


# **BRUISED, NOT BROKEN**

**(How Bruised People Can Be Healed And Dimming Wicks Can Be Restored)  
Isaiah 42:1-16**



## **“HE SHALL NOT FAIL” (V. 4)**

- ◆ The Character Of Jesus
- ◆ The Compassion Of Jesus
- ◆ The Conquering Of Jesus

**“A bruised reed shall He not break, and the smoking flax shall He not quench; He shall bring forth judgment unto truth” (Isaiah 42:3)**

**Bill Kirk**

# “BRUISED BUT NOT BROKEN”

**Text:** Isaiah 42:1-16

**Subject:** “Bruised But Not Broken”

## Introduction

1. Isaiah chapter 42 (like 40 & 41) is addressed to the exile Jews in Babylon.
2. The 70 year captivity is almost over.
3. The Jews are about to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple.
4. They are in need of confidence from the Lord.
5. They still remember their past failures and sin of disobedience.

**Question:** And, what does God tell Israel through Isaiah?

**Answer:** God gives a specific word to Isaiah, to Israel and to us.

- #1. That only God can make something beautiful out of the ashes of your past (and)
- #2. Your past does not (I repeat - does not) have to dictate your future.

## **(Discover What God Wants To Do) Inside of every believer**

(V. 10) “Sing unto the Lord a new song”

(V. 11) “Sing and shout from the top of the mountain”

(V. 12) “Declare His praise in the islands”

**Question:** Pastor, how can I be restored to the joy of my salvation?

**Question:** How can I be certain that the Lord will keep me?

**Question:** Pastor, what is it that removes my anxiousness over tomorrow?

**Question:** What prepares us for the journey ahead that we cannot see?

**Question:** What is the truth that encourages Israel and encourages me?

## 3 Absolutes

(That get our mind off ourselves and on the Lord)

## 3 Things

(That open the door for God to do a great work)

### I. The Character Of Jesus

“Behold my servant whom I uphold...I have put My Spirit upon Him, He shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles” (v. 1)

**Fact:** “Behold My Servant” is God the Father speaking about God the Son.

**Fact:** It is this Jesus who would accomplish and administer the great plan of salvation.

**Question:** What about Jesus draws us to His character and Person?

#### #1. Jesus is upheld by the Father:

“Whom I uphold” (v. 1)

- ◆ The word for “Uphold” means: to sustain, to protect and to keep as the object of attention.
- ◆ It means that Jesus is the object of His Father’s continual attention.

**Question:** Did Jesus ever feel He was forsaken?

**Answer:** Only at Calvary when the Father turned His back to sin.

**Question:** Have you ever felt like you were not the object of God’s attention?

**Fact:** If so, it is a fiery dart (lie) of the evil one to blind you to the the fact - that you are the object of Father’s continued attention.

#### #2. Jesus is anointed for His ministry:

“I have put my spirit upon Him” (v. 1)

**Question:** What does this mean to you and me (that Jesus is anointed by the Spirit)?

**Answer:** It means that Jesus is qualified to work out His plan in your life...

- ◆ By His Spirit, He will fill you with His power.
- ◆ By His Spirit, He will lead you with direction.
- ◆ By His Spirit, He will open up His Word to you.
- ◆ By His Spirit, He will bestow spiritual gifts.
- ◆ By His Spirit, He will consume the chaff and flesh.
- ◆ By His Spirit, He will heal as a soothing balm.
- ◆ By His Spirit, He will conform us into His image.

#3. Jesus is internal with you and me:

“He shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles” (v. 1) (**Means:**)

- ◆ Jesus would institute a new order of faith:
- ◆ Jesus would establish a higher rule of conduct.
- ◆ Jesus would set up a different way of approaching God.

**Fact:** The Law said “Do this and do that to please God”.

**Fact:** The Law focused on rules, regulations and tradition.

**Fact:** The Law exposed sin but gave no power over sin.

**Fact:** The Law was external and worked from the outside in.

**(But Now In Jesus)**

- ◆ The Law has been written upon our hearts.
- ◆ The Law has been superseded by grace.
- ◆ The Law has been fulfilled by Jesus.
- ◆ The “Law of the Spirit” now governs those fully submitted to Christ.

“I have called thee in righteousness” (V. 6) means:

- ◆ Jesus has been appointed to His office as mediator.
- ◆ Jesus has satisfied the righteous demands of God.
- ◆ Jesus has paid for the righteousness to our account.

**(So Much So That)**

“Jesus is our means of being in covenant with God” (V. 6) (**Which Means:**)

- ◆ God’s favor is upon those in right standing with His Son.

## II. The Compassion Of Jesus

“A bruised reed shall He not break, and the smoking flax shall He not quench: He shall bring forth judgment unto truth...He shall not fail nor be discouraged” (vs. 3&4)

**(Remember Now)**

Israel was concerned about what was soon to happen)

- ◆ Will the journey from Babylon to Jerusalem be too hard for us?
- ◆ Will the road be too tough to travel?
- ◆ Will the rough places and high mountains be uncrossable?
- ◆ Will God give us more than we are able to bear?

**(And God Reveals His Awesome Compassion)**

It is the ministry of Jesus among us today

Revealed in 3 ways:

#1. “A Bruised Reed Shall He Not Break”

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**Fact:** A “Reed” refers to a cane or calamus plant that grows in swamps and marshy lands.

**Fact:** The word “Bruised” means: fragile, weak, depressed, crushed or feeble.

**Fact:** “A bruised reed shall He not break” is applied to Israel (and you and me).

**(It Simply Means:)**

- ◆ Anyone here today that is feeble and weak,
- ◆ Anyone here who feels their strength is gone,
- ◆ Anyone here who finds it difficult to bear up under pressure,
- ◆ Anyone here who has been bruised or crushed by their own sin,
- ◆ Anyone here who has been weakened by some adversity.

**(“Shall He Not Break” Which Means)**

- ◆ Jesus will not break you (or add more to your already bruised reed).
- ◆ Jesus instead will embrace you as one of His own .

1. His desire is to lift you!
2. His desire is to uphold you!
3. His desire is to restore you!
4. His desire is to heal your wounded spirit!

**Question:** Are you a bruised reed today?

**Question:** Have you carried bruises into this service?

**Question:** Are there worries that are consuming you?

**Question:** Is there some sin that has bruised your conscience?

**(Remember)**

- ◆ Israel was afraid that God would allow more then they could bear!

**(If You’ve Been Bruised By Something Or Someone)**

- #1. Don’t curse it (for God’s way is perfect and just and He is without mistake. Psalm 18:30)
- #2. Don’t nurse it (and live with a victim mentality or a martyr’s complex which is born out of pride. (John 12:24)
- #3. Disperse it (by forgiving and relinquishing all rights over to God in prayer Philippians 4:6 & 7)
- #4. Reverse it (by allowing God’s grace to use your bruises to be a stepping stone instead of a tombstone. Genesis 50: 19 & 20)

#2. **“The Smoking Flax Shall He Not Quench”**

**Fact:** The work “Flax” means: Wick

**Fact:** The word “Smoking” means: (feeble, dim, weak, and about to go out.

**Fact:** It represents the Christian whose fire of spiritual devotion is about to go out or be extinguished. (The oil is almost consumed). **(In other words)**

- ◆ God is not bent on extinguishing your flame of devotion. **(Instead)**
- ◆ Jesus wants to tend to it, trim it, feed it, and supply fresh oil to be rekindled.

**(Oh What Compassion)**

- ◆ Instead of giving up on you, the Lord sees that the most feeble wick can be restored to a brilliant shine and luster.

#3. **“He Shall Not Fail Nor Be Discouraged”** (V. 4)

**Fact:** “Shall not fail” (Means:)

- ◆ The Lord will not fail to accomplish His purpose in you.
- ◆ The Lord will not quit, but finish what He has started in you.

**Fact:** “Nor be discouraged” (Means:)

- ◆ “Taken off guard by what happens to you”
- ◆ It means, “His eye is on the sparrow and He watches over me”.

### III. The Conquering Of Jesus

- ◆ “The Lord will open blind eyes and prison doors” (v. 7)
- ◆ “The Lord will fulfill what He has formerly promised” (v. 9)
- ◆ “The Lord will go forth as a mighty man and prevail over all enemies” (v. 13)
- ◆ “The Lord will destroy the plans and supplies of all of His foes” (v. 15)
- ◆ “The Lord will make the crooked places straight” (v. 16)

#### (How Jesus Encourages Israel Then and Believers Now)

##### #1. There is His Lordship (v. 13)

“The Lord shall go forth as a mighty man of war” (Means:)

- ◆ Jesus promises to go before you in all of your ways.
- ◆ Jesus promises to prevail over every obstacle in the way.
- ◆ “Mighty man of war” in v. 13 refers to a hero with everything subject to His command.

##### #2. There is His Leading (v. 16)

“I will lead in paths you know not of” (Means:)

- ◆ The Lord would lead Israel back to their own land.
  - ◆ The Lord would guide them along the untraveled road.
  - ◆ The Lord would instruct even the blind (or those who had no idea which way to go).
- Fact:** Every Christian needs a counselor and a guide to show the way.

##### #3. There is His Light (v. 16)

“I will make darkness light before them” (v. 16)

**Fact:** “Darkness” in Scripture is symbolic of adversity and calamity.

**Fact:** Here it refers to opposing events, trial or persecution (of Israel by Babylon).

#### (God’s Promise To You)

“I will make darkness light before you” (Which Means:)

- ◆ God will take the events in your life that seem to be adverse (darkness),
- ◆ And use them as the very means of promoting His work in and through you (light).

#### (Trust and Obey)

- ◆ And you thought that your tears were in vain!
- ◆ You thought that your pain was wasted!
- ◆ You thought that your disappointment was senseless!
- ◆ You thought that your way was hid from the Lord!

#### (But God Declares)

- ◆ That, He will take what you believed was dark and turn it into light that you may not even know of just yet.
- ◆ He will even “Make crooked things straight” (v. 16) (Or)
  - ...God will reverse the devils intention,
  - ...God will reign over the plans of man,
  - ...God will not be outwitted or outmaneuvered.

#### Conclusion

(How do we respond (and rejoice) to a God like this?)

(V. 10) “Sing unto the Lord a new song”

(V. 11) “Let us lift up our voice and sing”

(V.12) “Declare His praise in the islands”

AMEN!  
Bill Kirk, Pastor

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