

7<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## Sermon Application Notes

On Sunday Adrian led us through chapter 42 of Isaiah, looking at Isaiah's prophecy of the coming 'Servant of the Lord,' explaining how this is all about the coming of Jesus and the form his Kingdom will take. In particular he looked at four qualities of Jesus' kingdom – the rule that he establishes over creation as the Son of God. We should try to demonstrate and live out these qualities in our lives, because we are not 'people of the world' but citizens of the Kingdom of Jesus.

Kingdom of Gentleness – how can we be 'citizens of gentleness?' Adrian showed us how the Servant of the Lord, while he is described as a mighty champion, is also gentle, humble and compassionate. Just as he will not "break a bruised reed" or "snuff out a smouldering wick," which means will not crush those already struggling or 'blow you out' because your flame is not enough, we should look for those in difficulty in life and support them, not add to their pressure. In a society where people can be condemned for their inability to get by on their own, we need to remember that we are not 'self-sufficient' in rightness with God but are wholly dependent on the saving grace of Jesus. Therefore we should seek to be people who help, support and raise up others in our words and actions.

Kingdom of Justice – how can we be 'citizens of justice?' Jesus' heart of justice is not disconnected from his heart of Servant compassion, but directly tied into it. We are called to live his way by pursuing justice (not revenge or our own vindictive satisfaction), treating others fairly in all our relationships, and relieving oppression. Where we feel we have been wronged and justice has not been done (yet – God will in time deliver His justice in all things) we need to be able to had our bitterness and resentment over to God in His sovereignty.

Kingdom of Miracles – how can we be 'citizens of miracles?' We should seek and keeping on seeking the miraculous intervention of God, even if we have experienced disappointment or the confusion of unanswered prayer. With the role of the Servant of the Lord in mind, we should especially pray for healing, liberation and forgiveness. The enduring encouragement of having seen or experienced even what may seem like a 'small' miracle can be a constant reassurance and source of comfort.

Kingdom of Joy – how can we be 'citizens of joy?' Just as we are not self-sufficient in grace, we cannot always expect to be self-sufficient in joy. To pray for comfort, joy and happiness is not unchristian! We should also be looking to comfort and rejoice with others; obviously in the Age of Zoom this is more difficult but in the Holy Spirit our fellowship remains undimmed. We need to keep helping our brothers and sisters to rejoice too.