

Gentle or Powerful

- Gentle or Powerful
 - Household cleaners
 - Teaching
 - International relations
 - Parenting
 - Counseling
 - Cast saw
- Hard to be both
 - We swing back and forth
- What is God like?
 - How do you see Him?



Gentle Power

Isaiah 41:21-42:17

Important claims in the New Testament about Jesus Christ:

- He is the fulfillment of Judaism
- He is the **Promised One** from the Old Testament



A large crowd followed Jesus, and he healed all who were ill. He warned them not to tell others about him. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: *(Isaiah 42:1-4)*

“Here is my servant whom I have chosen,
 the one I love, in whom I delight;
 I will put my Spirit on him,
 and he will proclaim justice to the nations.
 He will not quarrel or cry out;
 no one will hear his voice in the streets.
 A bruised reed he will not break,
 and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out,
 till he has brought justice through to victory.
 In his name the nations will put their hope.”

Matthew 12:15-21

Isaiah the Prophet

Prophecy (predict/control future) was understood to be a power of deities (and a great concern for people)
 Isaiah warned Judah (South) about coming judgment
 Isaiah encouraged Judah about later restoration

739-701 BC	Isaiah spoke and wrote
722 BC	Fall of Samaria/Israel (Northern)
586 BC	Fall of Jerusalem/Judah (South)
539 BC	Rise of Cyrus, king of Persia
516 BC	Temple rebuilt in Jerusalem

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Cyrus the Great of Persia



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As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” *Matthew 3:16-17*

“Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. *Isaiah 42:1*

He said to me, “You are my son; today I have become your father. *Psalms 2:7*

Isaiah 42:3-4

A **bruised** reed he will not break,
 and a **smoldering** wick he will not snuff out.
 In faithfulness he will bring forth **justice**;
 he will not **falter** or be **discouraged**
 till he establishes **justice** on earth.
 In his teaching the islands will put their hope.”

JUSTICE

THE LIFE-GIVING ORDER WHICH EXISTS WHEN THE CREATION IS FUNCTIONING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DESIGN OF THE LORD (SO NOT ONLY INDIVIDUALS OR 'LEGAL EQUITY')

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- 42:17 Utter shame for those who choose other 'gods'

The Big Idea

Jesus Christ is all powerful and perfectly just
while also gentle and merciful
with people of all nations
who entrust themselves to Him

Applications

- Put our hope in God alone
 - No gods but God can give what they promise
 - Like broken crutches, leaning on what can't hold you hurts you more

Applications

- Put our hope in God alone
- Have confidence in the gracious AND powerful God
 - Wrong to think He is merely patient
 - Wrong to think He is merely righteous
 - Entrust yourself to God's merciful care
 - AND expect to be disciplined/disciplined by God

Applications

- Put our hope in God alone
- Have confidence in the gracious AND powerful God
- Live in grace and power (be like Jesus)
 - Don't crush people, especially the weaker ones!
 - Yet be strong in Christ

**Experience the gentle
and life-giving
and life-transforming
breath (Spirit)
of God**



Life Situations

- God's expectations for Christians
 - We **never** have to earn His love in Christ
 - Yet He expects us to **make every effort** to do what is pleasing to Him
 - He is the perfect integration of gentleness and power
 - In Christ, God loves us where we are and how we are
 - AND He loves us too much to leave us there
- When you have authority...
 - Be gentle **and** be strong/righteous like God
 - We also are God's servants

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 all powerful and perfectly just
 while also gentle and merciful
 with people of all nations
 who entrust themselves to Him**

