

## Wednesday, March 13, 2024 - Day 25 of Lent

Open in Prayer:

Lord Jesus, we are amazed and awed that you reign not by a demonstration of power, but through service. You reign not through exaltation, but humility. You reign not through power, but through sacrifice. Help us to reflect your image through service, humility, and sacrifice.

Read Isaiah 49:1-6 (NIV)

**Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the LORD called me; from my mother's womb he has spoken my name. <sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor." <sup>4</sup> But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing at all. Yet what is due me is in the LORD's hand, and my reward is with my God." <sup>5</sup> And now the LORD says—he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD and my God has been my strength—<sup>6</sup> he says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."**

### Answer the following questions:

1. How do we know that God is good?
2. Isaiah 49 is a notice being sent out to all the nations. Who does Isaiah say will bring the people back to God? What language does Isaiah use to describe this person? Where have you heard that before?
3. How does what Isaiah is explaining here confirm for us that God is good?
4. Our translation in verse 6 says, "He says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." What responsibility is given to the Servant/Savior?
5. In that last sentence of verse 6, the Hebrew is more directly translated, "I will make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth." This is key! Jesus is not merely the means to God's salvation. He IS God's salvation to the ends of the earth! How does that change your understanding of Jesus, who He is and what he was sent to accomplish for us?

Close in Prayer

**God of strength and grace, teach us to number our days, that we might present to you a heart of wisdom. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**