

**"THE BRUISED REED"****Introduction**

1. This is a prophecy from Isaiah 42
2. It is a description of Christ's ministry
3. It is part of this wider description (v.18-21)

**1. THE LORD JESUS IS A GENTLE, KIND SAVIOUR**

- 1) Two illustrations:
  - (i) a bruised reed
  - (ii) smoking flax (Explanation)  
The picture of believers.
- 2) Christ's kindness is shown to:
  - (i) those who are easily hurt: Satan good at lies and severity:  
"You have no faith – a poor specimen
  - (ii) those who are not clever or wise in knowledge. Not many believers are – most of us are dull.
  - (iii) those of frail health or feeble power  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Innes of the Hills  
**APPLICATION:** Such people are easily crushed + upset
- 3) (i) they have only a little light: **Illustration:** candles  
(ii) they have infirmities: **Illustration:** smoke  
**DOCTRINE:** Christ is extremely gracious to all those who are His because He loves them.  
**APPLICATION:** How suitable He is for us:

**2. THE WEAKEST BELIEVER NEEDS HAVE NO FEAR**

- 1) Satan loves to terrify God's children + to make them afraid: "You're a failure – no grace – if you had faith you would be stronger – you will be lost in the end."  
**RULE:** Never believe Satan, even when he tells you the truth".
- 2) God's Word reassures us of His tenderness:
  - (i) Isaiah 40:11: Is there not comfort there?

- (ii) Isaiah 49:14-16: **Illustration:** a new born child
- (iii) John 10:11, 14-18, 27-30

- 3) Sometimes Christ seems stern
  - (i) the Syro-Phoenician woman
  - (ii) "Go, call thy husband".  
**OBSERVE:** But it is all in love + for our good.
- 4) Objection: "But is Christ not terribly stern at times – e.g. Matthew 23?  
**ANSWER:** Yes – but not to those who are His.
- 5) **DOCTRINE:** Christ is both a LION and a LAMB  
**APPLICATION:** The way you treat Christ will determine the way He treats you:  
**ILLUSTRATION:** The 11 disciples v. Judas  
**APPLICATION:** I believe all this is put by our Lord in a very simple illustration: Matthew 21:44  
**Q.** Has the love of Jesus broken your heart?

**3. YET, CHRIST'S MINISTRY WILL BE VICTORIOUS**

- 1) Though our Lord's ministry is so quiet + calm, it will be completely successful: "till he send faith ... unto victory"
- 2) This is amazing:
  - (i) Christ's ministry is never popular / no loud shouts / no fanfare / no headline news...
  - (ii) On the contrary, everything is against the success of the gospel upon earth: persecution / anti Christian laws / education policies / atheist propaganda / political parties  
**OBSERVE:** Christ's Kingdom "ought" to have failed centuries ago!! How has it survived?  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Bunyan's picture of a fire
- 3) What is the secret of the gospel's success?
  - (i) the decree of Election
  - (ii) the sacred application of Christ's blood
  - (iii) the work of the Holy Spirit

## **CONCLUSION**

It proves the truth of Scripture: 1 Cor. 1:27-29  
The lowly people of God will ALL get safely to heaven.

**PSALM**

**56: 1 – 7**

**18: 25 – 30**

**37: 37 – 40**