

Associate Jim Kruse Homily on June 2019

Scripture is Isiah 42: 1-9

What's striking about this scripture is that the servant is never clearly identified. What is emphasized is the activity and character of the Servant. It seems at this point Jesus is interested more in what is accomplished rather than who does so. A servant is one who is obedient to the commands of God. Do you know what delights God's heart? Could it be when we delight in God? When we make it our aim to want to be pleasing to God. When we offer ourselves (even when we seem broken and useless in many regards), when we offer into God's hand all that we are, that is what delights God. A lesson for us as Associates, fostered by a vowed community that continues to do so much for so many with, so little is to stay focused on service.

Isiah verse 3 states A bruised reed shall not be broken. A dimly burning wick God will not quench, a justice will be faithfully brought forward. Most of Jesus's followers did not understand why he did not fight and take the rule away from the Romans. But God's way, is not through violence or boastful words or conversation, Jesus came as a babe in a manger, as a Savior of gentle, peaceful, to teach, forgive and save.

Jesus dealt tenderly with all the people when he ministered to them. I believe the smoking flax (dimly burning wick) represents those who believe in God. They will not be overcome, but taken into the fold, Justice and truth will be brought forth. God's chosen do not execute justice by force. This is a portrait of tender care for those who are vulnerable, for ideas still coming into fullness, for small efforts struggling to plant their roots "A bruised reed God will not break," Isiah says, "and a dimly burning wick will not be quenched" (verse 3).

True leadership protects what is weak until it is strong enough to stand, and keeps gentle hands cupped around a weak flame until it can burn on its own. Our Dominican Mission committed to truth and compelled to justice is all too like true leadership, the type we want to emulate, always nurturing and encouraging. Our actions to bring forth the ways of Our Lord will not fail nor be discouraged. That is the hope that we have, what we look for. Until that day, we need to behold and continue to improve the Servant in us that we are called to do, and that will continuously please God. Our diligence in Servant leadership will turn our eyes and investigate God's face only to see that God is indeed in us through our Servant service to others, true change will come, and this will be that delights our God.