

Embrace
Holy
Living

RE- FLECTING GOD

06/04/13 - Called To Be Light-Bearers

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Isaiah 42:1-9

Jesus was undoubtedly the Servant of the Lord par excellence.* He assumed the responsibility Israel failed to pursue, to be "a light to the nations" (Isaiah 42:6, NRSV).

None of Jesus' Jewish contemporaries read Isaiah's Suffering Servant Songs (Isaiah 42:1-9) as Messianic prophecies. Early Christians concluded that Jesus was the Messiah primarily because God raised Him from the dead. Isaiah's songs helped them make retrospective sense of His shameful death on the cross.

Jesus died to spare us from death. But He also lived to give us an example of how we should live (Matthew 10:25; 16:24). We "are children . . . of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings" (Romans 8:17).

We are not called to pursue persecution. We are to live in such Christlike ways as to "win the respect of outsiders" (1 Thessalonians 4:12). But as we reflect "the light of the world" (John 8:12; 9:5; Matthew 5:14) in a world that loves darkness (John 3:19-20), we should not be surprised if some hate us as they did our Lord (John 15:18; 1 Peter 2:18-25).

*See Isa. 61:1-2; Luke 2:32; 4:18-19; 9:35; 23:35; 24:45-46; Acts 8:30-43.

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