

October 5, 2025

“Given to You”

Isaiah 42:1-9

Intro:

When it comes to giving presents to children, especially when they are in their early years, there are two kinds of gift givers. The first kind is the parent, and to a slightly lesser degree the grandparents, who really are trying to help and support their kids. These people give safe, educational, quiet, and developmental presents in hopes of producing well-rounded children. Lots of thought is put into the presents, such as where they will fit in the house, what the longevity and durability of present is, and will they make the parents feel like they are doing a good job. The second type of gift-giver is the aunt/uncle and close friends of the child's parents. These are people who know full well that they get to be the fun people, and can leave whenever they want to. These people take great joy in buying presents that are not only questionable in the educational department, but are also mostly made to make as much noise as possible. With these types of gifts, the louder the better and if the noise is repetitive, even the better than that! The real win is when there is no way to turn the volume down or off until the batteries run out on their own. I'm not sure if any of you have noticed, but it seems that the louder and more annoying the toy is, the longer those batteries last. You can guess which gifts are the children's favourite ones....

My point is that there are different motives behind the gifts we give and receive, and different reactions to those same gifts from the people on the receiving end.

God's Gift:

God has given His people a gift, and as with all gifts, people have different reactions to it. Some refuse the gift because they feel they don't need it, or they are offended by it, or because they are at relational odds with the gift-giver (God). Some want the gift to be something that it is not. They want the gift to conform to their way of seeing things, or to act in such a way as to benefit them and their

own striving to get ahead. Some want this gift to be loud with a long battery life so that it can't be ignored, and by extension, neither can they be ignored.

But this gift from God is different. This gift, who is Jesus, is something altogether different from what people might want him to be. He is full of power, oh yes, and he understands the balance of justice – true justice. Some people would read the “strength” and “justice” parts of verse 1 as evidence for a loud, strong gift that evens the playing field when life is difficult or unfair.

But that is not the gift described in verse 2. This gift is quiet. He is careful. He does not use his position to raise a ruckus in public or to prove his power over others. He speaks in careful and gentle tones. He is careful around those who are weak and suffering. Rather than siding with the powerful, he makes sure that true justice is granted to those who have, up to then, been abused by a misguided and false “justice”.

This is the gift we truly need, but not always the gift we know we need, or want. He is the gift that shows us truth and justice, but not always in the way that we might understand those terms. He is the perfection of what they mean. And yet, so often He is the very gift that we reject and refuse because he doesn't line up with what we think he should be like, or more likely, doesn't live up to the self-centered expectations that we as humans have.

But He is God's gift to us. He is Jesus. God has given him all that is needed for his mission to succeed. He has been guided by the Father and given strength by the Father. He is able to demonstrate righteousness and justice and grace because He has known these things first from the Father.

Jesus is the gift that we need.

We have, earlier in the service, taken time to celebrate and remember Communion together, and in doing so we were reminded that the blood Jesus shed is the ink that God's covenant with His people is written in. Isaiah 42:6 says

that this gift of God's will be a symbol of God's covenant with his people... Jesus is what that symbol looks like.

Conclusion:

We can do lots of things with the gifts that we receive. We can play put them away in a box or on a shelf to never be used again. We can play with them for a bit and then toss them aside to be replaced by something newer or more attractive. We can try to use the gift in a way that it was never intended to be used. Doing any of those things lessens the gift, and threatens our appreciation for the gift giver. Or, we can put it in a place of honour and use it for its intended purpose.

God says, I have given you a gift – Jesus. He is the only gift that you will ever need. The question is what will you do with this gift?

Let's pray.