

## A Bruised Reed

**Isaiah 42:3** *"A bruised reed He will not break, and a smoldering wick He will not quench; in faithfulness He will bring forth justice."*

Many of us are facing an intense battle for our souls (our minds) or if you are feeling weary, hurting, or spiritually exhausted take heart you can receive Isaiah 42 as deep encouragement.

The enemy wants nothing more than to use our current struggles, anxieties, and fatigue to convince us that we are isolated, defeated, or forgotten by God.

**Matthew 12:15-21** Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against Him, how they might destroy Him. But when Jesus knew it, He withdrew Himself from thence: and great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all; and charged them that they should not make Him known: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying,

*"Behold My servant, whom I have chosen; My beloved, in whom My soul is well pleased: I will put My Spirit upon Him, and He shall shew judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed shall He not break, and smoking flax shall He not quench, till He send forth judgment unto victory. And in His name shall the Gentiles trust."*

Note how Matthew quotes Isaiah after the Pharisees plotted to kill Jesus and crowds of hurting people followed Him - instead of retreating or fighting Jesus *quietly* heals everyone. He has time for you!

Look at the beautiful promise we are given about the character of our Savior: *"A bruised reed He will not break, and a smoldering wick He will not snuff out."*

**If you feel like a bruised reed** - bent under the weight of life, fragile, and close to snapping, know this: *God is not going to break you.*

**If you feel like a smoldering wick** - where your joy or strength is down to a faint, smoking ember, *God is not going to blow you out.*

**God has not forsaken you!** He does not cast us aside when we are weak; instead, He draws closer with gentleness, tenderness, and protective love. He will restore your strength hold you fast. Like the protocol son's father, He will come running and fall on your neck and kiss you! (Luke 15:20b)

*Let's ground our hearts in His love and mercies today and remind each other it never ceases.*

**Lamentations 3:22-23** "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."

**Psalms 103:8** "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."

**Ephesians 2:4-5** "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved."

## ♥ God is Love and Knows Our Afflictions

**1 John 4:9** "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him."

## **The Good Shepherd vs. The Hired Hand**

This imagery comes directly from Jesus' words in John 10, where He explicitly describes the battle we face and promises that He will never abandon His flock when the wolf (Satan) attacks.

**John 10:11-13** "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep."

**John 10:14-15** "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me... and I lay down my life for the sheep."

## **God Will Not Forsake You in the Trial**

**Deuteronomy 31:6** Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, He it is that doth go with you; He will not fail you, nor forsake you.

**1 Peter 5:7-8** Casting all your care upon Him; for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:".

**Isaiah 41:10** Fear thou not; for I am with you: be not dismayed; for I am your God: I will strengthen you; yea, I will help you; yes, I will uphold you with the right hand of My righteousness.

**Hebrews 13:5-6** Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for He has said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee". So that we may boldly say, "the Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

**1 John 4:16** And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. *God is love*; and he that dwelleth in love dwells in God, and God in him. (Also 1 John 4:8)