A NAIL IN A SURE PLACE

PART 1

 **DATE: 1/3/2018 Wed.**

**TEXT: Isaiah 22:20-25 (v. 23)**

**INTRODUCTION**

We are living in a time unlike any other in the history of our country

There has been an intense effort over the last two decades by Hollywood, social media, and the women’s liberation organizations to de-masculinize the men of our country or to paint them as villains

The role of the father is mocked by television programs as they are made to look like bumbling fools

This is totally opposite from the programs I use to watch growing up, like *Leave it to Beaver, Bonanza, Make Room for Daddy*, or *Father Knows Best*

… Where the father in the home was a Wise, Loving Leader

Masculine leadership has also been weakened by the homosexual movement, which has made it acceptable for men to be effeminate

We now have men and teenage boys dressing and acting like women

Some are having surgery to change their Gender

Women are also doing the same because …

… they are unhappy being women – **Romans 1: 26, 27**

***“For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:” “And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet”***

This kind of behavior is affecting our nation and has created an atmosphere of confusion

This lifestyle is being forced on us through legislation

We now have what are called the Bathroom Bills being past

For example, it is now legal for boys, who believe they are girls, to dress and shower in the girl's locker room, because they claim to be girls

Girls can do the same thing by going into boy locker rooms

(Let me add here, Girls, you don't want to go into a boy's locker room!)

Governor Jerry Brown of California was the first to sign a *Transgender Bathroom Bill* in 2013

The absurdity of allowing this nonsense to exist has created panic among girls and their parents

People are concerned for the safety of their children in the public schools

You need to understand that the homosexual or transgender agenda won’t be satisfied until everyone is brought into conformity

This is why it is being pushed in our public schools, in government legislation, and now on television

Homosexual proponents are throwing their agenda into our faces to gain acceptance

We will continue to see more of this to desensitize us about their lifestyle

Understand, that morality produces stability and respect for others

While Immorality and Perversion (on the other hand) create chaos, confusion, fear, disease, and death

God has given in His Word Moral Boundaries to strengthen society and the family, not tear it down

Men and women, however, in their Defiance toward God and His Authority, Reject, Resist, and Rebel against God and those who stand up for His commands

We are labeled as Bigots and Bullies

They won’t recognize God's Authority in His Word and they disdain the Bible

The result of this perverse philosophy is that …

the public schools have become war zones and SDT’s are at epidemic proportions

As America becomes more perverse it will continue to lose its common sense and rational thinking

More bizarre and absolutely foolish laws will be passed by our legislators and school boards

Such behavior will dishonor America and will create even more confusion in a society that as already gone mad

Every man will do that which is right in his own eyes without moral restraint

As the Days of Noah

This kind of thinking leads to anarchy and ruin

**Proverbs 14:34 – *“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people”***

With all the bizarre behavior that exists among men today,

It’s refreshing to find men who are Men and not ashamed to be Men

They Act like men, They Look like men, They Dress like men

More than this, however, it is a blessing to meet men who have a Balance in their lives

I’m speaking of men who have the strength of steel in their character but are also gentle and kind

They know how to be strong, responsible, and manly, but they also know how to be tender and considerate

They have the Steel of Character, Conviction, Consecration, and Self-Control, and at the same time …

The ability of Giving, Generosity, Thoughtfulness, Humility, and Love

Let me say this loudly, There is nothing manly about beating up one’s wife, slapping her around, yelling at her all the time, verbally abusing her with harsh, condemning words, or cussing her out

Those are the actions of a bully or thug, not a man

Real men love their wives

They treat them with Kindness, Respect, Gentleness, Consideration, and Love

They don't take their wives for granted

They don't control their every move

Their aim is to please their wives, not punish them and make their lives miserable

Paul put it this way – **Eph. 5:25, 28 – *“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it” “So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself”***

Peter told us to give honor, respect, or deference to our wives so that our prayers wouldn’t be hindered

**I Peter 3:7 –** ***“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife,***

***… as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered”***

Anyone, with any sense, knows that Christianity elevates the wife in the home, unlike other false religions which treat the wife as a piece of property

Let me throw this in for free for the girls

When you are looking for a husband, look for a man of Character and Compassion

Understand that being cute or popular doesn’t necessarily mean that guy is going to make a good husband

If he is a goof off in school, if he does not like to work or is irresponsible, if he is always getting into trouble or fights, or if he is constantly getting fired or changing from one job to another, those should be red flags

(The air raid sirens should be sounding)

He either has a lazy streak or he does not get along well with others

If he is sloppy and does not take care of himself, that’s a red flag

If he treats his parents like dirt, especially his mother, and is disrespectful and sassy, then mark it down, he will eventually treat you the same way

Trust me, it is going to happen

Gentlemen, the same standard holds true for a girl

She may be very pretty, but if she is harsh, disrespectful, rude, and rebellious toward her parents or other people, she will be the same way toward you

She is just the Wicked Witch of the West in disguise

She is trouble even though she may be a Christian

If she is not a Christian, the Bible makes it clear you should not even be dating her, yet alone marrying her

Christians are not to marry unsaved people

If you got saved after you were married, then pray for your spouse that the Lord will speak to him or her about Christ and His gift of salvation

With this background about men having Character and Compassion, we find a man like this in **Isaiah 22**

His name was Eliakim

Most of us have never heard of him, but he was a man of outstanding Character

Like the Lord Jesus, he was a man of Character and Compassion

In fact, as we look at his life, we will see that this man is a picture or ***“type”*** of the Lord Jesus Christ in several ways

Let me list the first two here

**1.** Eliakim points to the Lord because of the meaning of his name

His name means *“my God will raise up; my God shall arise; or raised up by God”*

As we will see, that is what the Lord did for him in Hezekiah's kingdom

Clearly his name also points to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ who was raised from the dead

**2.** Eliakim also reminds us of the *“servant attitude”* of the Lord Jesus Christ because he was referred to as God's servant

I’m taking my Title for this Message from **v. 23**

Where it says – ***“And I will fasten him as a nail in a sure place;”***

Let’s stand to read **vs. 20-25** and then pray and think on this thought **“A Nail in a Sure Place”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. HE WAS A “SERVANT” – v. 20**

And again we read - ***“And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah:”***

In our last message, we saw God pronouncing judgment on a man by the name Shebna

Isaiah's message to Shebna was that God was going to wad him up and throw him out

The Prime Minister was going to be replaced

God would call instead Eliakim who was referred to by the Lord as ***“My servant”***

 One was to be demoted, and another would be promoted

**A. My Servant**

What a compliment to Eliakim to be referred to by the Lord as ***“My servant”***

There are only a handful of other men in the Bible that were referred to as **“*My servant”***

They were Abraham, Moses, Caleb, David, Naaman, and Job

God saw something special in Eliakim

He saw a Servant's Heart

He saw a man that had the right priorities in his life

Men of Character and Compassion have a Servant's Heart

They are men who know how to invest their lives in others

They are concerned about other people

They demonstrate this by their help, work, and taking responsibility

They reveal their Compassionate side by their generosity, love, and kindness

**He was a Nail Hammered in a Sure Place!**

Let me ask you a Question …

**B. Do We Have a Servant’s Heart?**

You might say; I don’t know / How can I know?

The Bible gives us the answers on how to be a Servant of the Lord

Let's pull over and park awhile and address this issue of Serving Christ

*What are the traits of the Servant of the Lord?*

Let’s look at our own lives and see if we have them

The Bible does tell us to examine ourselves

**II Corinthians 13:5** ***– “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith”***

**1.** A Servant ‘Respects and Rejoices’ in the Lord

God's Servant has a Reverent fear of God

He Rejoices in His love, and Respects God's holiness

**Psalm 2:11 – *“Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling”***

**2.** A Servant is ‘Regenerated and Righteous’

The Servant of the Lord is a new person in Christ

Because he has been born again

**II Corinthians 5:17 *– “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”***

As a new creature in Christ, *we are pardoned from sin, but not excused from service*

Some folks try to do the Lord's work without knowing the Lord of the work

Understand, however, that religious work doesn't save us

It is the Lord that saves

Service begins with Him

The True Servant of the Lord lives a godly life

**Psalm 101:6b – *“he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve Me”***

**3.** A Servant is ‘Resolute’

His mind is made up, he’s Resolved to live for Christ

The Lord is the focus of his life

The Servant of God gives himself to the Lord Jesus

*He has settled the issue of whom he belongs to and to whom he will follow*

He has Resolved to serve the Lord no matter what anyone else does

He is like Joshua who said ***– “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”***

**Acts 5:29 – *“Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men”***

**I Corinthians 15:58 *– “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord”***

Whether convenient or inconvenient,

The Servant of God does what God wants him to do

Many Christians today will only serve the Lord out of convenience and end up doing little

Much of what God wants us to do is inconvenient and not easy

People are consumed with convenience today and that is why they have no desire to live for Christ

**4.** A Servant is ‘Reserved and Restrained’

God's Servant is a person of Humility

The Servant of Christ glorifies Christ, not himself

He is not cocky, proud, and arrogant

**Quote:** D. L. Moody put it this way and said, *“The measure of a man is not how many servants he has, but how many men he serves”*

**Acts 20:19 a – *“Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations ...”***

**5.** A Servant has ‘Regard’ for Others

The Servant of the Lord loves people

True love sees service as a privilege

True greatness lies not in trying to be somebody, but in trying to Help somebody

The Servant of the Lord realizes this and desires to be a blessing to others

We are to encourage and exhort others

This can be done by an encouraging word and also by physical or financial help

You will find that God doesn't comfort His people

to make them comfortable, but to make them comforters

That is what He wants to do with us

**II Corinthians 1:4 *–“Who comforteth us in all our***

***tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them…***

***…which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God”***

Many Christians make the mistake of going to a church to get something out of it

The purpose of the church is to put something into it

**Hebrews 10:24, 25 *– “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:” “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching”***

In other words, investing our life into the lives of others

We are to be doing what Jesus would be doing if He was personally, physically or bodily present in the service

We are to treat others the same way He would if He was physically present in the church service

When you go to church with the attitude of being a blessing to others, you will get something out of it

You'll find satisfaction, joy, a desire to learn, you’ll find purpose, and fulfillment as you see God using you to help others

Your life will honor and please the Lord

This is how you grow in Christ

*When you dig someone out of trouble, you will find a place to bury your own (troubles)*

**Isaiah 50:4 a *– “The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary:”***

**Galatians 6:2, 10 – *“Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ ...” “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith”***

**Galatians 5:13 *- “For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another”***

**I Corinthians 16:15 – *“I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)”***

The word ***“addicted”*** means *to devote*

The house of Stephanas took responsibility for the ministry of the saints

No one begged or pleaded with this family

They just said - *We are going to do the job*

We should employ our passions in the service of others, …

… not spend our life in the service of our passions

**6.** A Servant is ‘Respectable’ toward Others

The Servant of the Lord is Patient and Gentle with people, especially those who are immature

The immature especially need someone to help them and be patient with their faults and weaknesses

We miss a lot of opportunities to really help others because we get impatience and therefore fail

**II Timothy 2:24 – *“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,”***

**7.** A Servant is to be ‘Responsible’

God's Servant is Faithful and Dependable, especially in little, insignificant matters

Don't despise little things

*A lantern can do what the sun can never do*

*It can shine in the night*

Serving the Lord with the little bit that you have or the little that you can do is the way to make it more

There is nothing small if God is in it

*Little is much when God is in it*

Some may say - *My work or responsibilities are small; I want a bigger job to do*

*God has no larger field for the man who is not faithfully doing his work where he is*

*Realize that God doesn't want our success; He wants us*

*He doesn't demand our achievements;*

*He demands our obedience*

Our responsibility is to be faithful and obedient to Him

We are to serve Him with all our hearts

*No man ever yet lost anything by serving God with his whole heart, or gained anything by serving Him with half a one*

**Matthew 25:23 – *“His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord”***

**8.** A Servant is ‘Responsive and Respects’ his Master

God's Servant is Obedient to the Lord and to God’s authorities in his life

The only time authorities should be disobeyed is when they ask you to do something evil, sinful, or contrary to God's Word

Some authorities are difficult to serve because of their harshness, …

… but God says we are to serve them as if we were serving Him

The Holy Spirit is the One who empowers us to do this and have this kind of attitude

**Ephesians 6:5 *–“Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;”***

**I Timothy 6:1 *–“Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed”***

**Titus 2:9 – *“Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again;”***

The phrase *“****not answering again”*** means *not talking back, contradicting, or arguing with the person*

**9.** A Servant is ‘Refreshing’

The Servant of the Lord is an Encourager

He desires to be a blessing to people

**Proverbs 25:13 – *“As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters”***

God wants us to be like a cool drink of water

**10.** A Servant is ‘Repeatedly Regular’

The Servant of the Lord is characterized by Consistency in his life

He serves his master whether he is harsh or gentle

We are to serve the Lord in good and in bad times

Servanthood is not difficult to define; it is only difficult to Achieve because it goes against our grain

**I Peter 2:18 *-“Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward”***

It’s a little easier when you are getting paid for it, but it’s a whole other thing when someone is a volunteer

**11.** A Servant ‘Relinquishes’ His will to Christ

He is following the Lord and Doing His will

God measures our service, not by our ability, but by our Willingness and Submission to Him

**John 12:26 –** ***“If any man serve Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve Me, him will my Father honor”***

**Ephesians 6:6, 7 *– “Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;” “With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:”***

**12.** A Servant is ‘Ready’ to Serve

He is Prepared

He is alert and looks for opportunities to serve God and others

He is ready to do what needs to be done

Like Isaiah, his attitude is ***“Here am I, send me”***

He is Ready to Serve

**II Timothy 2:21 – *“If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the Master's use, and prepared unto every good work”***

**Titus 3:1 – *“Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,”***

**I Peter 3:15 *– “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”***

**13.** A Servant ‘Raises’ Up the Lord in His Life

He Exalts and Magnifies Christ and tells those who are lost about the Saviour

[**Matthew 5:16**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+5%3A16) **– *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven”***

[**I Corinthians 6:20**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+6%3A20) **– *“For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's”***

[**John 3:30**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+3%3A30) ***– “He must increase, but I must decrease”***

**14.** A Servant is “Reachable and has a Reason’ for Living

He has a Purpose for his life which is to live for God

He is Available to God's Call / Are you?

Realize that the Available person is the one that allows God to make changes in his schedule

His priority is to the wishes of Him whom he serves

His desire is to add strength or worth to another person

Availability is recognizing that it is by making others successful that I myself am successful

Availability is not always a matter of duty

It is a voluntary attitude

*Don’t think of availability as something you have to do, or you will destroy the spirit of it*

Availability is something I am happy and willing to do because I am committed to the success or needs of the person I am serving

God wants us not only to have this attitude toward others, but also toward Him

The Bible teaches we are to be available and ready to serve the Lord

**Acts 26:7** ***– “Unto which promise our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, hope to come”***

If we keep in mind how important it is to Serve the Lord

**We will be a Nail Hammered in a Sure Place**

Eliakim was A **“SERVANT”**

Next let’s look at …

**II. HIS “STRENGTH” – v. 21 a**

***“And I will clothe him with thy robe, and strengthen him with thy girdle, and I will commit thy government into his hand …”***

God clothed Eliakim with the royal robes of the Prime Minister under the reign of King Hezekiah

He was a Servant, but God Strengthened him more by giving him great power to do that which was good and right

He was responsible to advise the king and to protect the Davidic line

God exalted other men in the Bible into positions of great authority such as Joseph, Daniel, and David

The Lord trusted Eliakim with the authority and responsibility that he had given to him because he was a faithful man

**He was a Nail Hammered into a Sure Place**

Eliakim was not like people today that do not know how to handle authority

Some folks turn into tyrants when they are put in charge of something because they do not know how to handle their authority

They become proud, arrogant, cocky, and harsh with those under their authority

Those are poor traits for a leader

Eliakim's character shows us what can happen when we have a strong relationship with the Lord

Walking with God and Serving others may eventually result in leadership

Jesus Himself said in **Matt. 23:11 – *“But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant”***

So let me ask - *Are you spiritually strong or tossed about?*

Unable to make up your mind

**James 1:8 *– “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways”***

God challenges us to be strong in the Lord …

… and He tells us how to achieve this

**Ephesians 6:10 – *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might”***

**II Timothy 2:1 – *“Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus”***

**Isaiah 40:31 – *“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint”***

**Philippians 4:13 – *“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me”***

**I Peter 5:10 – *“But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you”***

Eliakim's strength, power, and authority pictures the Lord Jesus Christ

**Matthew 28:18 – *“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth”***

**John 3:35 – *“The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into His hand”***

**John 5:22 – *“For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:”***

**Philippians 2:9-11 *– “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name:” “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;” “And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”***

**I Peter 3:22 – *“Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto Him”***

**HE WAS A “SERVANT”**

**HE WAS “STRONG”**

**He was a Nail Hammered in a Sure Place!**

**III. HE WAS A “SHEPHERD” – v. 21 b**

***“… and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah”***

Like a loving father, Eliakim would protect as well as encourage and support those under his authority and care

His concern would be for those whom he served, not for himself

The people of Jerusalem and the royal household would benefit from his leadership

Eliakim pictures the Lord Jesus Christ in this way

Christ is our Shepherd

**Joh 10:11, 14 *– “I am the Good Shepherd: the Good Shepherd giveth His life for the sheep” “I am the Good Shepherd, and know My sheep, and am known of Mine”***

When we trust Him as our personal Saviour and invite Him into our hearts, the Lord becomes our Heavenly Father

**Romans 8:15 – *“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father”***

**Galatians 4:6 - *“And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father”***

**We have seen Eliakim the Servant, His Strength and his position as a Shepherd**

**He is a Nail Hammered in a Sure Place!**

**IV. HIS SOVEREIGN RESPONSIBILITY – v. 22**

**V. HIS STABILITY – vs. 23, 24**

**VI. HIS SILENCE – v. 25**

**CONCLUSION**