

**Jesus, What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up? The Servant-Savior!**

1. **He Was Called to This**
2. **He Was Equipped for This**
3. **He Was Commissioned to This**

*What You Want to Be When You Grow Up*

- What be when grow up? Remember thinking re that when kid? Ever talk w/ own children re that? Kids think re that all time. Lots: police, firefighter, dr, nurse. Sometimes person knows as child; other times not figure out till finished with college. But kids like to think re what be when grow up.
- What if someone asked Jesus: what want be grow up? Maybe Mary, Joseph had conv w/Jesus when 6/7 yr old. Certainly must have been on mind. By time 12, knew for sure; **“my Father’s house” (Lk 2:49)**. Jesus grew up knowing Son of God; probably thought often about what that would be like when adult.
- Today in lesson, yrs before Jesus born, hear conv between Jesus and God Father; talking about what Jesus will be when grows up. Dialogue between Jesus and Father; Isa records for us. In this conv we see Jesus knew exactly what be when grow up: Servant-Savior of world. These words show: called, equipped, commissioned by God to this task: SS.

*Called*

- **Vs. 1b**. Even before born of VM, God called Jesus by name to be SS. Not just for Jews, but all. **Vs. 1a** – whole world. Major theme in Epiphany, starting with Magi, not Jewish: Savior of whole world.
- Called to this from eternity. When **“before born...from womb,”** means Jesus knew from all eternity what when grow up. God had plan salvation: knew world fall into sin; knew send Son to save from sin. Jesus knew, too. Knew this was what called to do.
- We use word called, too; esp called workers. We call pastors, teachers; call news after service. To be called by God (even if involves human agents, like voters at call mtg) means God authorizes, delegates to speak for him, be mouthpiece, discharge duties of your call. Jesus was authorized, delegated to speak for God, as mouthpiece, discharge duties of his call, to be SS of world.

*Equipped*

- **Vs. 2**. Notice 2x: Jesus made into weapon, piece war equipment; then God conceals him. Sword – hand, sheath; arrow – quiver. Weapon; concealed. Both important.
- So equipped to be SS, that his mouth/Word (what speaks) called sword. Vs. 2a. **Heb 4: “The word of God is living and active...sharper than any double-edged sword.” Eph 6: “Take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”** In Rev 1, graphic picture of sword actually coming out of Jesus’ mouth. **“Coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword.”** Throughout Rev, Jesus talks re **“sword of his mouth.”** God’s Word, Word of Christ, powerful weapon. God equipped Jesus to be messenger, prophet, preacher, teacher, to proclaim w/mouth Word of Lord, in parables, teachings, doctrines. People said taught with authority. Yeah! Equipped with sword of Spirit.
- It’s doubled-edged, because God’s Word law/gospel. With law Jesus cuts us to heart, shows sin, exposes guilt. With gospel Jesus attacks/defeats Satan, defends us from temptation, reassures us we’re God’s forgiven children. No more powerful piece of equipment in world than double-edged, law/gospel sword of God’s Word. Weapon that changes lives. Whenever Word of Christ preached, taught, read, studied (homes, church, school, Bible studies), Jesus wielding God’s most powerful weapon, Word.
- Remember, said weapon of Jesus’ Word also concealed. **Vs. 2: “In shadow, hid; concealed in quiver.”** Today we talk concealed carry laws; keep handgun in holster until ready to use. For long time, Jesus concealed; people had to wait for Jesus revealed. Then finally, God sent Jesus; pulled sword from sheath; nocked arrow to bowstring, pulled back, released his deadly arrow into Satan’s jugular. First Jesus concealed, then revealed as SS, equipped by God for task.

## Commissioned

- **Vs. 3.** Servant, loaded word. In Isa, 4 sections talk re special servant, Jesus. Most famous, Isa 53, where servant **“took up infirmities, carried sorrows; yet considered him stricken, smitten, afflicted; pierced transgressions, crushed iniquities.”** Clearly Jesus. Here another of 4 special servant sections where God: **vs. 3** (Israel: not nation but perfect Israel that culminates in person of JC).
- How display splendor? **Vs. 5a,6.** God Father display splendor of love for world by commissioning Jesus to be SS. Jesus’ central mission. Two parts to this mission. **Vs. 6a “restore...kept”** – Jews. Jesus came to be Jewish Messiah. For centuries, God’s Jewish people looked forward to coming of Messiah. That was Jesus; that was first part of mission.
- But that **“too small a thing for you.”** Second part, **vs. 6b.** Jesus also came to save non-Jews, Gentiles, like us, from every corner earth. Worldwide mission; **“salvation...earth.”** Jesus: light for Gentiles.
- Know who understood? Elderly Simeon in temple holding infant Jesus in arms: **“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel” (Lk 2).** We sing words end every Communion service. Simeon knew baby in arms commissioned to bring light of Gospel to those living in darkness, in shadow of death (Is 9), to people like you/me, born with corrupt, sinful nature, so that his penetrating brightness might shine into our dark lives, enliven us with Gospel’s gracious light. Simeon understood.
- Know who else? You do. Do you believe in Jesus as Savior, SS, Son of Man who came not be served but serve, give life ransom many; by dying cross, rising from dead, to defeat Satan/hell forever and connect you to himself in Holy Baptism, so that where he is, you too shall be? Believe that? If do, then light for Gentiles is shining in your heart by faith; Jesus accomplishing his mission in you.
- If you don’t believe in Jesus as SS, then mission being thwarted; this is discouraging to Jesus. Hear discouragement in his voice: **vs. 4a.** Ever have project; nothing goes right; wonder if worth to start? Believe or not, sometimes Jesus felt same discouragement. Knew was Savior; sometimes still felt a non-sinful, human emotion of discouragement. Once said, **“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing” (Mt 23:37).** When people today not willing to believe in Christ as SS, that’s frustrating to Jesus, who **“wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim 2:4).** When his mission is rejected, Jesus discouraged.
- But **vs. 4b.** Know what Jesus’ reward is? Someday in heaven, when all God’s people gathered together – everyone trusts in Christ as SS of world – and they’re there with Jesus to live forever in paradise: that will be Jesus’ reward. All really wants: wants you in heaven. Commissioned to accomplish.

## Conclusion

- So what want be grow up? Some in 30/40s still trying to figure that out; others know from childhood. Jesus knew what be when grow up: servant of Lord, Savior of world – for this he was called, equipped, commission; crucified, raised, ascended; glorified, proclaimed, reigning. Worth is our LJC to be praised now/forever, because he is our SS.

## Isaiah 49:1-6

<sup>1</sup> Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the LORD called me; from my mother’s womb he has spoken my name. <sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor.” <sup>4</sup> But I said, “I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing at all. Yet what is due me is in the LORD’s hand, and my reward is with my God.”

<sup>5</sup> And now the LORD says— he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD and my God has been my strength— <sup>6</sup> he says: “It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”