QUESTION: What does this passage mean?

> *Isaiah 42:19-20 (NIV)*
> *“Who is blind but my servant, and deaf like the messenger I send?*
> *Who is blind like the one in covenant with me, blind like the servant of the Lord?*
> *You see many things, but you pay no attention; your ears are open, but you do not listen.”*

In this passage, Isaiah speaks prophetically about Israel, God’s chosen people, whom He calls His “servant.” The “servant” motif in Isaiah is rich in meaning, representing not only Israel but also the coming Messiah (see Isaiah 42:1-4). Here, the “blindness” and “deafness” are not physical but spiritual conditions an inability or unwillingness to perceive God’s truth despite their privileged position as His covenant people.

This spiritual blindness is tragic because Israel had been the first to witness God’s mighty acts, receive His Law, and understand His covenant (Exodus 19-24). Yet, instead of responding with faithfulness, many turned to idolatry and injustice (see Hosea

4:1-3). Isaiah’s words underline the tension between privilege and responsibility.

Historical and New Testament Fulfillment:
This spiritual blindness persisted into the New Testament era. Despite their deep knowledge of Scripture and prophetic promises about the Messiah, many Jewish religious leaders rejected Jesus Christ. They knew the Old Testament prophecies but failed to recognize their fulfillment in Him.

Jesus addresses this in John 9:39-41 (ESV):
“Jesus said, ‘For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.’
Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, ‘Are we also blind?’
Jesus said to them, ‘If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, “We see,” your guilt remains.’”

Here Jesus uses spiritual sight as a metaphor for understanding and accepting God’s revelation. Those who acknowledge their blindness are open to God’s grace, but those who claim to “see” while rejecting Him remain guilty.

Sadly, this spiritual blindness is not confined to biblical times. Today, some who claim to be God’s servants fall into similar traps treating the gospel as a means to material success or social status, rather than a call to repentance, faith, and transformation (cf. Matthew 6:24). This distorts the heart of the gospel message and leads to a form of profound spiritual blindness.

This aligns with Jesus’ warnings against the religious hypocrisy of the Pharisees and Sadducees, as well as His critique of “hired hands” who lack genuine care for God’s flock (John 10:12-13).

Prayer:
May God grant us spiritual insight and humility to recognize our need for Him, so that we may truly see and hear His Word, remaining grounded in Scripture and faithful to the gospel.

Shalom.

JIUNGE NA GROUP LETU LA WHATSAPP HAPA >> WHATSAPP GROUP….

Share on:
WhatsApp