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Monday Evening Prayer Meeting - 25th February, 1957

HYMNS:- 1086 (Pastor) 927 (Mr. David Relf)
 Tunes:- Leicester Maryton

Lesson:- Isaiah 42nd Chapter.

Prayer & Supplication:- Mr. Sam. Stevens.
 " David Relf
 " Jack Davis
 " Stanley Collins.

Address based on Isaiah 42nd Chapter.

These verses in the first part of the chapter clearly refer to the Lord Jesus and His offices that He sustains and the perfect qualifications that He has to sustain those offices, also the meekness and tenderness that is manifested toward His people in their weakness and who may sometimes feel that it would need but very little to crush them altogether. In very tender language the Lord's care of His people in these conditions is expressed in that He will not break the bruised reed nor quench the smoking flax. "He will bring forth judgment unto truth", that is to say He will vindicate His own case and prove to His people and His enemies that He is the very Christ, the Saviour of His people and, moreover, that His redeeming work is a perfect and accepted work. "He shall not fail nor be discouraged". A wonderful word this: perfectly spoken of the great Redeemer, especially as we consider that there were indeed many things in themselves of great discouragement, and

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enough, as it were, to break any heart. There was the opposition that He continually had before Him, the enmity, bitterness, wrath of men, and many many things, and yet still He stedfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem to drink the cup His Father gave Him to complete the work and to become the justification of all His dear people. "He shall not fail". A beautiful word, strengthening to faith, fully approved, answered to the last degree. But you may say, what hearing does this have upon a sinner's case? I answer, It has a wonderful bearing, not only confirming in the nature of it, but it is reassuring that He will not fail in relation to all that He has promised! He will be the same Jesus as He ever was, in days to come, and He will not fail to bring His people through. He will be their God and fulfil His promise in that as it is said later, I will not forsake them.

His people are like blind people. They are brought by a way that they knew not. They are blind like the children of Israel were in their journey through the wilderness. They were like the blind, not knowing the way, and needing a heavenly Guide. So are we blind in this sense, we do not know what the Lord's appointments are, they are in His secret will. It is said "As thy days, so shall thy strength be" and is not this work for faith to commit the future into His hands whatever it may bring, and to lean upon Him and believe that He will surely fulfil His Word, "I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before

them, and crooked things straight." Dark providences, crooked things! Have you any crooked things? Perhaps you have a crooked thing you have even tried to make straight, but it is said in the Word of God, "Who can make that straight which He hath made crooked? He can make it straight. There is no darkness into which He cannot shine. What a mercy it is to see His hand, to feel His guiding, to have grace to submit to His will, and to cast our care into His Hand.
