

Matthew 12:15-21: Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. And many followed him, and he healed them all¹⁶ and ordered them not to make him known.¹⁷ This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah:¹⁸ "Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.¹⁹ He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets;²⁰ a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory;²¹ and in his name the Gentiles will hope."

Intro: Last Lord's Day, we saw the Pharisees take one of God's laws (Sabbath) that was supposed to point to rest in Jesus Christ & that was supposed to be a blessing, & they turned it into a burden. It was meant to point Israel to Christ where true rest is found, but the leaders rejected Christ! Jesus showed that He is the greater David; He is the greater temple; He is LORD of the Sabbath! He alone gives rest! & we saw the rising opposition to Christ: the Pharisees began to plan how to kill Him. So Jesus withdrew from the Pharisees. It wasn't His time to die yet. But He continued to do what He was always doing: showing who He is by loving, serving, healing, & fulfilling all the Scriptures about Him. We see all of this in the passage we are studying today. Who is Jesus Christ? Come & see!

1. Jesus Withdrew And Healed Them All

Matthew 12:15: Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. And many followed him, and he healed them all

Jesus healed every disease & every affliction! We've seen Him heal the paralytic, heal the woman with a flow of blood, raise a little girl from the dead, heal two blind men, cast out a demon, heal a mute man, & heal the withered hand. As one has said, Jesus banished sickness from Galilee! In the presence of the King, you can't be sick!

Everyone Jesus healed or raised from the dead eventually died! There is an already/not yet aspect to God's healing!

Romans 8:20-23: For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

2. Jesus Ordered Those He Healed Not To Make Him Known

Matthew 12:16: and ordered them not to make him known.

For a limited time, Jesus commanded silence about His true identity: Jesus didn't want to be misunderstood. He didn't want people coming to Him merely for physical healing (as a wonder worker) or as the military leader who would crush the Romans, but He wanted the people to hear His Words! He and His Words give eternal life! Jesus wanted people to rightly understand Who He was and what He came to do. And Jesus had a timetable for His mission. It wasn't time yet for Him to fully disclose the whole truth about Himself – He could be arrested and killed prematurely: **John 2:4:** My hour has not yet come; **John 7:30:** So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come; **John 8:20:** no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come; **John 12:23:** The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified

Jesus has not ordered us not to make Him known! We are commanded by Him to make Him known! **GOSPEL!**

3. Jesus Fulfilled Prophecy

Matthew 12:17: This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah

Josh McDowell: He was born in Bethlehem, preceded by a messenger (John the Baptist), entered Jerusalem on a donkey, was betrayed by a friend who received thirty pieces of silver, was silent before His accusers, and died in the manner Romans used for criminals (crucifixion), during which they pierced His hands and feet.

Jesus fulfilled over 300 prophecies in the Old Testament about Himself. One scholar has calculated that the odds of one man fulfilling just 48 of those prophecies is 10 to the 157th power! (that's 1 with 157 zero's after it!)

Luke 24:44-45: Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures

William Hendriksen: To prove Christ's unassuming, gentle, and retiring nature a reference to Isa. 42:2, 3 would probably have sufficed, but it is Matthew's desire to quote also the preceding and following context, in order that Messiah's glory may become all the more strikingly evident, and the wickedness of his opponents stand out more clearly by contrast.

4. Jesus Is God's Chosen Servant

Matthew 12:18: Behold, my servant whom I have chosen

Isaiah 42:1-4: Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ² He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³ a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴ He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.

Revelation 5:1-10: Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals." And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

5. Jesus Is God's Beloved With Whom His Soul Is Well Pleased

Matthew 12:18: my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased.

- **Matthew 3:17:** behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

- **Matthew 17:5:** He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

a. God is well pleased with His beloved Son because of Who He is & what He's done/doing (His Person & Work): Jesus is God! And God is always most pleased with Himself!

- **Hebrews 1:1-3:** Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

- **Hebrews 1:6:** when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

- **Hebrews 1:8:** But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever"

God is also well pleased with Jesus because of His perfect work and obedience!

b. Dear Christian, you are God's beloved with whom His soul is well pleased because you are "in Christ."
(164 times in Paul's letters)

- **Romans 8:1:** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

- **Zephaniah 3:17:** The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.

6. Jesus Had God's Spirit Upon Him

Matthew 12:18: I will put my Spirit upon him

John 3:34: For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure.

John Piper: God gives the one whom he sent the Spirit without measure. What does that mean? It means that there is an infinite difference between the way the Son of God receives the Spirit of God & the way we receive the Spirit. The difference is that he receives it "without measure." The way the Son of God receives the Spirit of God is measureless. It cannot be measured. Why not? Because it is infinite. God communicates, imparts, bestows his Spirit on the Son infinitely. As much as there is of the Spirit, the Son has. As many ways as he can have him, he has him in all those ways. As fully as the Spirit can be known and enjoyed, in all that fullness he knows & enjoys the Spirit of God.

Jesus obeyed God's law, as a man filled with the Spirit & empowered by the Holy Spirit of God. Jesus did His miracles as the God-Man through His own power as God and mediated through the power of the Holy Spirit.

7. Jesus Proclaims Justice To The Gentiles

Matthew 12:18: and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.

Jesus comes to proclaim justice: what is true, righteous, good, holy, & what saves! Namely Him! He is the holy & just One who is just & brings all that is just, righteous, & good! He calls people to trust, repent, & do right!

D. A. Carson: What is in view is "justice" – righteousness broadly conceived as the self-revelation of God's character for the good of the nations (**Isaiah 51:4:** give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.), yet at the same time calling them to account.

8. Jesus Did Not Come With Quarreling And Shouting Out His True Identity

Matthew 12:19: He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets

Jesus did not get in shouting matches, fight, and argue with the Pharisees. He withdrew. He told those He healed not to make Him known. He wasn't going around crying out: "I am the Messiah! I am the Messiah!"

D. A. Carson: The picture is not one of utter silence (how could he "proclaim" justice, v.18? **John 7:37:** On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up & cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me & drink.") But of gentleness & humility, of quiet withdrawal & a presentation of his messiahship that is neither arrogant nor brash.

Daniel Doriani: Actor Bill Murray once walked into an elite and crowded New York restaurant with no reservation, and wearing wildly inappropriate attire – tattered jeans and a flannel shirt. He proceeded to mock the hostess's accent and the restaurant's décor. He engaged the guests at tables near the door, then loudly declared himself "a little overdressed." Suddenly, a table appeared; Murray told a reporter standing by, "I cannot be denied." Early in his career, performing on small stages, Murray showed the same determination to have his way. If, for example, the crowd was not, in his opinion, sufficiently attentive, witnesses say he sometimes broke character to rebuke the audience for failing to listen to the actors. Jesus is no Bill Murray. He is peaceful, not pushy or

quarrelsome. Yes, he is willing to combat evil, but he forces himself on no one. He has style; he is modest, not loud or arrogant. He does not arrive with fanfare . . . he makes generous invitations (Matt. 11:28-30).

9. Jesus Is Gentle And Lowly

Matthew 12:20: a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench

Leon Morris: A reed might be used as a flute, a measuring rod, a pen, and in many other ways. But for whatever purpose it was wanted, a whole reed was desirable. Reeds grew plentifully and were cheap. “The reed, growing by millions in every marsh and riverside, was a type of commonplace insignificance” (Glover). The natural thing was to discard an imperfect reed and replace it with a better one. But the Lord’s servant does not discard those who can be likened to shattered reeds, earth’s “broken” ones. A perfect reed is at best fragile, so the imagery emphasizes weakness and helplessness. The same truth is brought out with the reference to a smoking wick. A wick that functioned imperfectly was a nuisance: it would not give out good light and its smoldering released a certain amount of smoke. The simple thing was to snuff it out and throw it away. A little bit of flax did not cost much, so replacing it was the normal procedure. It took time and patience and the willingness to take pains to make anything useful out of a bruised reed or a smoking wick. People in general would not take the trouble. In a similar fashion most of us regard the world’s down-and-outs as not worth troubling ourselves over; we do not see how anything can be made of them. But love and care and patience can do wonders, and that is what the prophet is talking about.

We are all bruised, weak, & needy! We are bruised by others; we are bruised by the pains of living in a fallen world (sickness, loss, pain, death); we are bruised by our own sin; we are bruised by God (He disciplines those He loves!)

There’s a time to give stern warnings (disobedient/hard-hearted); & to be gentle and meek (those convicted of sin).

Richard Sibbs: Are you bruised? Be of good comfort, he calls you. Conceal not your wounds, open all before him and . . . go to Christ . . . There is more mercy in [Him] than sin in [you]. **(Matthew 11:28-30!) Dirty Rose Lover!**

10. Jesus Will Bring Justice To Victory

Matthew 12:20: until he brings justice to victory

Isaiah 11:1-4: There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ² And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

He will be meek and gentle until: There is a day when He will do much more than break bruised reeds & quench smoldering wicks. There is a day when He will be gentle & lowly no more in order to bring justice to victory over all His & our enemies: **Revelation 19:11-16:** Then I saw heaven opened, & behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful & True, & in righteousness he judges & makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, & on his head are many diadems, & he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, & the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white & pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, & he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings & Lord of lords.

11. Jesus Is Our Hope

Matthew 12:21: and in his name the Gentiles will hope.

Psalm 52:8-9: But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever. ⁹ I will praise you forever for what you have done; in your name I will hope, for your name is good. I will praise you in the presence of your saints.

Jesus Christ, the Chosen Servant of God; the beloved Son with Whom God's soul is well pleased; The God-Man filled with the Holy Spirit without measure Who preached the truth like no one ever has or will; He did cry out loud on that cross! They all heard his horrific cries! He was made like the weakest of reeds & was bruised in our place: **Isa 53:5:** He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; His light was put out as darkness covered the land in God's judgment & curse; it seemed like there was no justice! But He rose up! Victory!

Christ Is The Center In Each Deed
Of Grace And Love That Here We Read
He Healed Them All, Met Every Need
Yet Hidden, Quiet He's Decreed
His Time's Not Come But Will Indeed
When He Would Suffer, Die, And Bleed
And Bear God's Wrath So We Are Freed
Then Rise Alive All Hopes Exceed
He's God's Beloved Woman's Seed
Who Crushed The Serpent's Head To Lead
In Gentle, Lowliness Proceed
He Will Not Break A Bruised Reed
Brings Justice, Victory With Speed
Saves Every Nation Guaranteed
He Is Our All, Our Life, Our Creed
So Every Word Of His We Heed!