

August 13th, 2023
Pinecrest Baptist Church
a.m.

Sermon Series: Striving with the Maker: The Ruin of Resistance
Sermon #4 Title: More About Jesus
Sermon #4 Text: (Matthew 12:15-21)

We are studying Matthew 12, and we have come today to a pivotal point in the ministry of Jesus, and it is here that we can learn things about Him in this setting, that we do not see in other settings.

The Lord Jesus has finally crossed an imaginary line in the sand with the religious authorities of that time.

- Obviously their hatred of him has been building...
- Like most, it may have started with a hesitating curiosity; - they weren't quite sure what to make of this young miracle working teacher from Nazareth.
- Then they come to realize that He had no regard for the religious laws that they had imposed upon the people.
- He didn't attach Himself to their commentaries...
- He didn't admire their sermon notes
- He didn't abide by their conclusions
- over the last few chapters that Matthew has recorded concerning Christ's interaction with them, we can see the process moves from hesitation towards Him to opposition up to Him; to pre-meditation on destroying Him.

- In chapter 9 – Jesus healed a paralyzed man and forgave His sins, and the Pharisees accused Him of blasphemy –
- He ate with Publicans and Sinners, and they found out He had no regard for their “rules of separation.”
- At the beginning of this chapter – He went through the cornfield on the Sabbath day feeding His disciples – and the Pharisees openly accused Him breaking God's law, putting a clear distinction between Him and them in the eyes of the people.
- And then, in the preceding verses that we studied last time, the Lord publicly, personally, and to a degree provocatively went into their synagogue, and healed on a man on the sabbath day.

With each moment of Christ's miracles and mercies and messages, the Pharisees grew haughtier, angrier, and deadlier.

Now don't miss this. We are learning more about Jesus, but there is something here in the Pharisees that exists in every opponent of the God of the Bible.

- The Lord showed them, and us, repeatedly that the God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, have no respect, no regard, and no acknowledgment of man's religious opinions, assertions, or desires. No man ever contributes anything to the fixed and final Word from God.

- Meaning that God does not have to respect your beliefs, nor make room for your good intentions, or mine...

When such a fact landed on the Pharisees, they Detonated with Anger.

- Much of what you see today in this angry, hostile, and unhinged world, is that same anger. – God has never and will never regard anyone’s personal demand to be in charge of their own truth, or live in their own reality.

- The same volatile hatred that we see on the News today, showed up in the hearts of those Pharisees in verse 14.

Vs 14 – “Then the Pharisees went out, and held council against Him, how they might destroy Him.”

- For lack of a better way to say it, for them at least, this is where they began their countdown to the cross.

It is from that verse we pick up and look deep into what happened from that point.

I. The LORD’s Reaction to Danger – vs 15-16

*Note – There is no more-clear of a picture of the personality, character, and nature of the Lord Jesus, than there is in the middle of a hostile environment.

- Having said that, thought the environment had grown hostile, it had not yet grown violent. – It was clear, nonetheless, that volatility was in the air on the side of the Pharisees.

*Note – We don’t really learn a lot about each other when all things are well and there is peace in the valley. To get a real picture of someone, take a good long look at them when the storm is bearing down, and troubles are going up.

- What did Jesus do? – “when Jesus knew it, He withdrew Himself from thence.”

A. *Sovereign Separation* – “He withdrew Himself from thence:”

1.) Mark tells us three things in Mark 3:6-10

a.) The Pharisees headed for the Herodians.

b.) Jesus headed to the sea.

(1.) From the synagogue in Capernaum to the sea is a very short walk. That’s why Jesus had told His disciples to have a boat waiting for Him due to the multitudes.

c.) that people from all over Galilee, and Jerusalem, and from Idumea, and Jordan, and Tyre, and Sidon had gathered in order to see Jesus.

*Note – Now that being said, don’t get the idea that Jesus was in “immediate danger.” – The Pharisees weren’t going to do anything to Him in the synagogue with a freshly healed man, and a big crowd of Jesus’ people watching. – All they knew was that He had to be stopped by any means necessary, and it was time to take figure that out.

(Jesus was not “running from danger” – He was separating from enemies. – He merely moved on to His ministry.

- Note this – He didn't run and hide – it was no secret where He went.

Following that service there was a sovereign separation; Christ's foes went one way, while Christ and His friends went another so He could move on with His ministry.)

2.) Sometimes, people will say He had to get out of there before they killed Him, because God had a different time for Him to die.

(Which was on Calvary, on the Passover –

*Note – I don't believe for one second that the possibility ever existed that men could thwart the plan of God. Meaning if He ran from them to keep them from killing Him too soon, implies there was a possibility that they could have done something, but He just escaped!

Listen

Luke 4:28-30 – “And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong. But he passing through the midst of them went his way.”

- Our Lord was NEVER in actual danger anytime of being “killed too soon” to thwart God's plan.

(He just walked right through the crowd)

Jesus regularly withdrew Himself from the “threatening crowds” – but it was not because they had a chance of messing up God's plan. – it was to leave an angry crowd hanging, and move His ministry to cooler waters.

B. Sanctified Service – “great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all.”

*Note Already having established that Jesus wasn't “fleeing for His life”, He wound up moving His ministry to the seashore.

Two things would be accomplished by this:

1.) Uninterrupted ministry to the people.

a.) rather than doing verbal combat with the agitators continually, He went to a place that afforded Him and the people uninterrupted time.

(Mark does tell us that the crowd became so big, and eager that “a small ship should wait on Him because of the multitude, lest they should throng Him.” – 3:9)

*Note – He was going to be busy enough with the people coming to Him.

- And even though as a man He grew physically weary, He did could deal with them, without having to give attention to His enemies.

2.) Disconnected influence of the leaders from the people.

1.) Not only was Jesus now uninterrupted, He had a time with these people without the influence of the false teachers and leaders.

*Note – Most all of these people, had only been taught by these enemies. Jesus now could speak to them, minister to them, work with them, separated from other voices and influence.

(Much like when Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5; and the sermon on the Mysteries of the Kingdom in Matthew 13; and the feeding of the 5000 in chapter 14 – these multitudes and crowds had opportunity to hear Jesus without the influence of the competing voices, and within

the sound of debaters and detractors.) – These were precious times of ministry.

3.) Matthew though sums up the entire day –
“He healed them all.”

- He doesn't record a sermon. He doesn't record the lessons taught that day, (oh how good they must have been) – He doesn't record the kinds of healings, and miracles and details of that day. – He just states flatly – “He healed them all.”

a.) all – “pas” – every, all, whatsoever
- it is an all-encompassing word.

*Note – I believe what happened that day was just too magnificent and majestic to try and explain. – He just “healed them all.”

- But now here comes the point after...

C. Sensible Subtly – “And he charged them that they should not make Him known;”

*Note – How in the world is a multitude of sick people, suddenly well, going to explain this when they get back home?

- How will the blind go back and explain how they can see?

- How will the deaf go back and explain the symphonies of sound they now enjoy?

- What about the paralytics, and palsies, and leprosies, and old-fashioned colds that man has yet to conquer?

- How are they going to explain this...

Well, the suppositions are too numerous to elaborate on; but there is no shortage of guesses as to why Jesus did this.

1.) So the hostility against Him would not spread too fast and hinder future ministry.

- That's certainly a result; but that doesn't mean it's a reason.

2.) So people would not view Him merely as a miracle working healer, and have no use for His message.

- That's certainly a possibility; but that doesn't mean it's a reason.

3.) So the people won't invite upon themselves the hostility being heaped upon Him.

- That's certainly a practical possibility; but that doesn't make it a reason.

– Exactly what is the Lord doing here? – The good news here is that we do not have to guess; He tells us the reason:

The LORD's Reason for His Decision – vs 17 – “that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet...”

- He was doing what Isaiah said He would do. His doing this is a “fulfillment” of the description of the Messiah.

- There is a thought some have called the “Messianic Secret” – At least 11 times in the gospels, Jesus instructed those He healed “not to make Him known.”

Why? – Because He did not come as a Healer, He came as Savior, and not until the crucifixion and resurrection were men going to be able to say, “If I be lifted up, I will draw all men too me.”

Matthew said, Isaiah told us what kind of man to look for!

- Israel was looking for a King – but they did look for the “kind of King” that would come.
- Israel was looking for a Messiah – but they were not looking for the “Kind of Messiah” that would come.

(Now don’t get the idea that Jesus read the prophecies, figured them out, and then decided, okay – I need to go do this; to check that box so that prophecy gets fulfilled.

- When Christ fulfilled prophecies, He was not going down a checklist making things happen and marking them off, like some bellhop on an errand.

Here’s the point. – The only accurate pictures of Jesus are in the Bible. Don’t get the idea that you can say, “Well, I picture Jesus being this kind of a man...” or “I picture Jesus this way...”

The most wonderful thing about the Bible is that tells us what the picture of Jesus is.

- Isaiah told the world what kind of man to look for; and Matthew writes it down here; Jesus is that man!

The LORD’s Revelation of His Deity – vs 18-21

This is a quote from Isaiah 42:1-4

- Israel had picture of their Messiah, long before He came. Here is the “God-Man” who would walk the earth...

A. Unveiled by God – “Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved in whom my soul is well pleased...”

What God said about Him in Isaiah, Matthew says is the reality of Jesus and His ministry.

1.) “My servant” – this was a title of Historic and Heavenly Honor that very few times God used when speaking of a man.

a.) Moses, Joshua, David, were called these in the Old Testament.

b.) But this was also the term for the coming Messiah.

Four particular passages in the book of Isaiah came to call the Messiah, the Lord’s Servant; and also brought about the thought of the “Suffering Servant.”

Now note this as Matthew is unveiling the Messiah to US in Jesus.

- In Isaiah 42 the Hebrew word for servant – Means slave, or servant.

- Here in Matthew 12 – Matthew uses a word that can mean both “servant AND son”

The Servant of God is the Son of God.

2.) – “My beloved” – very dear one – Isaiah uses the word that means “elected one”

- Put these together and you have two relationships – Master and Servant, Father and Son.

- When you look at the Master Servant Relationship – it looks like this:

- God the Father, Chose God the Son to go and serve His purpose of Redemption.

Note what God says about His Chosen, Beloved, Servant – He said, “I am well pleased with Him.”

Now all of that being said, the entire statement begins with “Behold” -Look at this. Observe the description that I am about to give you.

- God said, He is My Servant, I am pleased, and this is what He is Like!

Unveiled by God – to be Understood by Man

B. Understood by Man – “He shall...”

*note – Note the list:

1.) “**shew judgment to the Gentiles**”

a.) Literally illuminate and make known the judgment of God to the Gentiles that they might know the gospel.

*Note – To show judgment to the Gentiles is the idea of bringing us into the same knowledge, same plan, same redemptive work that He did to the Jews.

(Every bit of God’s revelation to man, and God’s plan of redemption for man came through Israel.

Psalm 147:19 – 20; the Psalmist wrote – “**He sheweth his word unto Jacob, His statutes and his judgments unto Israel. He hath not dealt so with any nation: And as for his judgments, they have not known them. Praise ye the Lord.**”

- If God had not brought us in through Jesus, we would not be brought in. – One of the first characteristics of the Man and ministry of the Messiah was to bring the light and judgment and truth of God to us!

2.) “**not strive, nor cry neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets**”

Do you want to know why Jesus withdrew from the Pharisees and why He told these people not to make Him known?

- Because He is the kind of man who will Not engage in “Verbal Street Fighting.” – He is not a “Loud, Obnoxious Street preacher” – He is not going to contribute to chaos, confusion, and vitriol.

- There were some common settings – normal human interactions and confrontations that the man Jesus NEVER DID allow Himself into.

- Jesus regularly participated in open dialogue and teaching. And Jesus showed His wrath in the temple. – But He would not “fight and verbally brawl with the Pharisees as His manner of ministry.”

- there were times and places Jesus rebuked them openly – but He never “religiously brawled with them.”

- Here is a good lesson – There is great danger in striving with your Maker. – But the Maker doesn’t strive with you in this sense.

- He is not brash, He is not arrogant, He is the epitome of a man with passions under complete control in every circumstance.

3.) “**break a bruised reed**” -- “**quench smoking flax**”

*Note -These are metaphorical pictures of people about to be crushed under the weight and burden of sin, and the law.

- a bruised reed – a damaged reed

- the reed was a tall plant with a hollow stem, that was used for a number of things - similar to a stick of bamboo but not quite as hard.

- You ever seen kids play with the cardboard tube that Christmas paper is wrapped around. They use it as a sword, or a bat to hit their brother over the head with...what

happens – one good whop and it pinches in the middle, and you might as well throw it a way.

- that's the idea here about the bruised reed – it has been damaged, its pinched spot has made it too weak to do anything with, and so you throw it away.
- that's what the law and Pharisees were doing with people who have been bent past their breaking point and no longer have any strength due to sin, and the law.

*Note – Jesus would NOT do that to people so weakened by the law.

Neither would he put out your candle light when it's just barely smoking because you've run out of oil.

- He never came to put someone out of His misery or theirs. He came to seek and to save that which was lost, and to relight the candles in souls; and to give new light and life and strength to the weakened and broken.

(I want you to think about this for a second. – Do you remember that big stalk of winter rye grass you walked by 4 years ago this winter, and you saw it broken in the middle but still together, and you just thoughtlessly reached down, broke it off and just kept on going... remember that? – Jesus never does that to a soul.

4.) “send forth judgment unto victory”

- a.) – In Him justice will be victorious
- b.) in other words, He shall succeed!

D.A. Carson puts it like this – “What is pictured is a ministry so gentle and compassionate that the weak are not trampled on and crushed till justice, the full righteousness of God, triumphs.”

He is Unveiled by God, to be Understood by Man -and He will be...

C. Unbeatable by the Enemy – “And in His name shall the Gentiles trust.”

- Those of you here today that are saved, are the fulfillment of this prophecy!
- If you are saved; you are in this verse!

The Lord spoke through Isaiah telling us what kind of Man to look for; and what that all that Man would accomplish.

-He is the Kind of man that Reached out to Gentiles; that was Gentle and Careful with the hurting and wounded; Intellectual and Clear with the Erudite and Elite.

- He will bring forth True Justice and Judgment to this World
- He will save and redeem any man or woman who will trust Him in His name.

Conclusion: - Now we can close with the characteristics of Jesus and we can know more about Him. – But I want to close by pointing us to the “Commission of Jesus”

- He came to do the redemption work of the cross
- He came to reach, teach, save, and use any man or woman.
- As the old preachers used to say He came to Win Souls.

R.A. Torrey a preacher from yesteryear wrote this – “I would like to know what right a man has to say He is a follower of Jesus Christ if he is not trying to be a soul winner. Didn't Jesus say follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

- It is hard to believe a man or woman who says they are saved; and make no effort, have no desire, carry

no burden, show no participation in the work of bringing Jesus to the lost and the lost to Jesus.

- The more you know about Jesus – the more you grow in Him; and the more you grow in Him, the more you start to behave like Him.

