

THE BOOK OF MATTHEW

JESUS IS KING



Jesus: The Fulfillment of Isaiah's Prophecy

Text: Matthew 12:15-21

Remember in verse 14 the Pharisees were plotting how to destroy the life of Jesus. They accused Jesus and his disciples of breaking the Sabbath laws. Now we get to verse 15. Matthew takes time to insert this fulfilled prophecy about Jesus - the Messiah. It provides beautiful context about the character of Jesus and how He went about ministry and really challenges us on how we are to live.

Matthew quotes the old testament authors more frequently than any other Gospel. He is trying to show the Jews that Jesus is the fulfillment of these prophecies. He is in fact the Messiah

15 But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all;
16 And charged them that they should not make him known:

After healing them all he made a strange request. I think this is incredible. What kind of man goes about doing miracles and wants to remain anonymous?

17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying,

18 Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles.

19 He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets.

20 A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory.

21 And in his name shall the Gentiles trust.

I want to bring your attention to this prophecy about the Messiah. It is found in...

Isaiah 42:1-4

1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

2 He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street.

3 A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth.

4 He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.

The words in Isaiah are very similar to a couple other passages in the New Testament. At Jesus' baptism God the father spoke audibly that is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased and also at the mountain of transfiguration with Peter, James and John. God said this my beloved Son - listen to or hear Him.

5 Parts of the Prophecy

1. Jesus is a servant

It is interesting that God the father refers to His Son as servant...

He says this is my servant. He is emphasizing that word.

I am reminded that Jesus Christ came to serve. The only one who had the right to be served came to serve.

I want you to understand, a servant isn't just a worker. A servant is thinking about the needs of his employer and others. A servant cares and is concerned and really desires to anticipate the needs of others.

Philippians 2:4-7

4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. (Definition of a servant)

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: (Didn't hold onto his divine rights)

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

I don't think there ever was a greater picture of a servant than the last 24 hours of Jesus' life. The disciples were arguing over who would be the greatest in the new kingdom. They didn't get it. Before the final meal with his disciples, Jesus took his outer garment and tied it around his waist and grabbed a basin of water. The disciples watched in awe as their master, teacher, and friend washed their feet. Jesus knew that within 24 hours he would be bearing the crushing weight of the sins of the world on the cross and yet he spent his last day on earth serving.

Mark 10:45

For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

The greatest act of service was indeed laying His life down on our behalf.

God has called us to service - not necessarily in a demeaning way or humiliating way. God has called us to surrender our lives and be available to His leading and direction. My question for you is are you God's servant? Are you available and not just when it is convenient or easy.

2. Jesus is loved “The one in whom I am well pleased”

The phrase I am well pleased means He delights my soul. Jesus is the delight of God the Father.

God the father says about Jesus - He is the one I love. We get a glimpse in this passage of what is and has transpired for all eternity. The love of God shared in communion with the three parts of the trinity - God the Father, God the Son - the Word made flesh and God the Holy Spirit.

When people say think about the love of God we generally mean God's love toward us. That is our first thought and what a great thought that is. The late J. I. Packer said “To know God's love is indeed heaven on earth.” But the love of God is much more than His love for mankind, and creation.

In fact, before there was a humanity to love and the world to love there was the perfect expression of love being shared amongst the Godhead - the Trinity - the Triune God. Before time and creation there was God. In the beginning - God. There was a shared love found in the essence or being of God.

Quote: “If there were no world and no universe, the persons of the Trinity would still have an infinite, blessed, unchangeable, eternal, powerful love between them - an inward love. Jesus' goal for his creatures is that they love God and one another, for we are never more like him than when we love. In fact, heaven itself will forever be a place of love.” Mark Jones

Romans 8:38-39

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,
39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Why does Paul have this great confidence? He realized that the love of God originates in the person of God and is not based off circumstances, good and bad, death and life. It pre-dates these things. God's love is first and it can't be affected by anything that has been made.

Ephesians 3:17-19

17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,
18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;
19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

3. Jesus satisfies the judgment of God

"I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles."

The Jews were disappointed that Jesus didn't go guns blazing and overthrow the Roman Occupation. He was supposed to judge the gentiles. The first arrival of Jesus, revealed him as a servant - at His second coming He will be revealed as the conquering King.

How does the holiness and justice and the love of God work together? Jesus is the answer. God's love and judgment meet at the cross of calvary.

4. Jesus is silent, meek and humble

19 He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets.

Remember the Pharisees at this moment were plotting how to kill Jesus. Jesus doesn't respond by grabbing swords and rallying his disciples to march through the street, yelling at the top of their lungs. They didn't carry banners and they never led a protest. Jesus never led a rally against the pharisees or the government.

Jesus never ran away but when rejected He got up and departed to another place that would hear and where He could continue His ministry. He was a gentle leader.

We have a lot of shouting fools, but the words of the wise are heard in quiet.

Ecclesiastes 9:17

“The words of wise men are heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools.”

5. Jesus deals gently

20 A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory.

21 And in his name shall the Gentiles trust.

What is a bruised reed or a smoking flax? Yes they are word pictures. They represent the broken, hurting, abused. They represent those who have seen the worst of the worst. They represent those in despair. Jesus says I will deal gently with them. Jesus says I won't snap off that broken reed and I won't lick my fingers and put out the smoking wick. Doesn't that give you encouragement?

CONCLUSION:

This small passage provides beautiful context about the character of Jesus and how he went about ministry and really challenges us on how we are to live.

Like Jesus our Savior, let's mature in our service. Let's be available to God. Let's mature in our love for God and others. Let's understanding we are secure in the Father's love. Let's praise God that He satisfies the righteous demands of the law on our behalf. Finally, let's mature in our humility and gentleness as we deal with others and seek to be a witness of the trust and hope we have in HIM.

1. What is prophecy? Why does Matthew use Old Testament prophecies frequently?
2. How would you define a servant? What does it mean to serve God?
3. Where does love come from or who invented love? How does understanding the love of God lead to the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:17-19)
4. Does the fact that God will judge all sin bring you comfort, fear or another emotional response? Why?
5. Is it wrong to strive or raise a voice in defiance or in the face of injustice? How do we decipher when it is appropriate to protest, petition and or fight for what we believe in?
6. Is it true that hurting people tend to hurt people? If so why is that? How can we as God's servants minister to those broken reeds and flickering wicks?