

Matthew 12:14-21 The Jews Beginning to Turn From Jesus and the Gentiles Beginning to Turn to Him

Introduction: I stress the word, “beginning.” At this time the masses of Jews had not turned from Jesus, but Jewish leaders had. Gentiles as a whole are not yet turning to Him, but in our text some do. That is a beginning.

I. A growing opposition to Jesus by Jewish leaders.

- A. First it was in their minds unspoken. Matthew 9:3
- B. Then they criticized Him to His disciples. Matthew 9:11
- C. Then they criticized Him to the public. Matthew 9:34
- D. In Matthew 11:16-19 Jesus pointed out their critical attitude.
- E. In Matthew 12:2 they charged that He allowed His disciples to break the Sabbath day.
- F. In Matthew 12:10 they tried to charge Him of breaking the Sabbath.
(They intended to have Him stoned.)

II. The plot to have Jesus killed, Verse 14.

- A. This was not a plot to crucify Him, but to murder Him.
 1. They would have to do so without the masses suspecting it for Jesus was still very popular with the masses.
 2. These were not Jews at Jerusalem but at Capernaum where most of His miracles had been performed.
- B. Jesus knew their plot and withdrew from the city, verse 15.
(Jesus knows what is in every man.)
- C. Mark says that they joined with the Herodians, a political party whom they hated. Mark 3:7
- D. Jesus left the city so as not to antagonize them. (It was not time yet for Him to die.)
- E. He went out to the shores of Galilee to minister to the crowds that did desire His ministry.

III. The Gentiles beginning to come to Jesus, Verse 15b.

- A. Great crowds followed Jesus out of the city.
 1. Jesus was not in hiding from the Pharisees.
 2. He continued His ministry, healing and preaching.
- B. These crowds were made up not only of Jews but also of Gentiles. (From Galilee, Judea, Edom, from east of Jordan, and from Tyre and Sidon. Mark 3:7-8)
- C. Jesus charged the crowds of people not to say anything about the miracles before the Pharisees, verse 16. (He knew that this would only further antagonize them.)

IV. A fulfillment of prophecy, Verses 17-21.

- A. The prophecy that Jesus speaks about is Isaiah 42:1-3.
- B. The prophecy speaks of the Messiah with Jehovah calling Him “My servant,” verse 18.
- C. In the prophecy Jehovah speaks of the Messiah as being one “whom I have chosen. My beloved, in whom I am well pleased.” See Matthew 3:17.
- D. The prophecy spoke of the Holy Spirit being upon Him, verse 18. See Matthew 3:16.
- E. The prophecy spoke of the manner of His ministry.
 1. He would not strive nor cry out in strife, verse 19.
(Not as a political activist nor as a warrior.)
 2. A bruised reed He would not break, verse 20. (The bendable reed symbolized weakness; a bruised reed is even weaker. Jesus did not hurt, but helped the weak. He healed them.)

3. The smoking flax He would not quench, verse 20. (The flax or wick in a lamp would smoke when the lamp was out of oil. This too symbolizes weakness, a lamp that is flickering and about to go out. Jesus does not put out the lamp of the weak. Rather He gives them help and hope.)
 4. Jesus even dealt with the Pharisees who sought to kill Him in mercy.
(He simply withdrew from them.)
- F. But the point of emphasis in the text is that Jesus fulfilled this prophecy by preaching to Gentiles, verse 18c, verse 21.
1. Jesus would show judgment to the Gentiles by preaching the Gospel to them, verse 18.
 2. The Gentiles (some of them) believed in Jesus and were saved, verse 21.

Conclusion:

1. It is dangerous business to harden your heart and turn away from Jesus Christ.
(Entire families and entire nations can be affected.)
2. If people want to turn aside from Jesus like the Pharisees did, they can. But they will also go to hell like the Pharisees did.
3. There are people here today who are like the bruised reed and the smoking flax. You need to trust in Jesus Christ and be saved.
4. You trust in Jesus like those Gentiles did and Jesus will save you like He saved them.
5. If there are those who are already saved who wish to join this church to serve Him, come and help us serve the Lord.

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