

Jesus Said the Gentiles Would Trust in Him

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children understand that everything Jesus did was to carry out the will of the Father and fulfill all of the Old Testament prophecies about His first coming. In this topic, we will see that Jesus healed all who came to Him to fulfill a prophecy given by Isaiah.

Isaiah and the other Old Testament prophets made many predictions about the first coming of Jesus to this earth. We see that Jesus fulfilled each of these prophecies. We saw in our last topic that Jesus healed all who came to Him. Matthew 12:16-21 talks about the fulfillment of another one of those prophecies. Verses 16-18 quote the first part of that prophecy, “Yet He warned them not to make Him known, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: ‘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 will declare justice to the Gentiles.’” Jesus knew that many of the Jewish rabbis were looking for a political leader who would set them free from Roman control, not for a Savior who came to save people of all nations.

That is why this prophecy from Isaiah 42:1-4 was so important, even though Jesus was healing all of the people. Isaiah had explained why the Father sent Jesus into the world. The Father said through Isaiah, “Behold My Servant whom I have chosen.” This first quote from Isaiah shows that Jesus came as a Servant, not as a conquering hero as the Jewish rabbis expected. Jesus explained His own leadership as He taught the disciples, in Matthew 20:25-28, where we read, “But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.’” Jesus came as the servant who came to serve and give His life to pay the penalty for our sins.

At the same time, Jesus came as, *My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased!* In fact, when Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, the Father spoke from heaven. Matthew 3:16-17 says, “When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’” This prophecy identified Jesus as the Son of God. The Father also said through Isaiah, “I will put My Spirit upon Him.” These verses mention that the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in the form of a dove.

The Father said that Jesus would also declare justice to the Gentiles. The word that is translated “justice” means *those things that are right or wrong*. The concern of the Father has always been for both the Jews and the Gentiles to hear the message of both judgment and forgiveness. Psalm

67:5-7 says, “Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. *Then* the earth shall yield her increase; God, our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.” The plan of God has always been for the Gentiles to hear the message of repentance and faith.

Matthew 12:19-21 gives the rest of the prophecy quoted from Isaiah. Those verses say, “He will not quarrel nor cry out, nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets. A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench, till He sends forth justice to victory; and in His name Gentiles will trust.” In these verses, we see that the Father said there were several things His Son would not do as He came to this earth. First, He would not quarrel nor cry out nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets. The word translated “quarrel” means *to become involved in strife or conflict*. The word translated “cry out” means *to shout or to cry aloud*. These were the things that the Jewish leaders did. John 19:15 says, “But they cried out, ‘Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!’ Pilate said to them, ‘Shall I crucify your King?’ The chief priests answered, ‘We have no king but Caesar!’” Jesus never debated with the leaders when they condemned Him to death.

Second, God said, “A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench.” Many Jewish shepherds would take a reed and make a small musical instrument from it. Then, they would play it until it cracked and became useless. The Jews would also use pieces of flax to make wicks for their lamps. Sometimes, the flame on these wicks would burn out and start to smoke and become useless. When things became useless, the people would throw them away. In contrast, Jesus did not come to throw away or destroy the useless. As He began His ministry, Jesus quoted another prophecy from Isaiah to show what His ministry would be like. Luke 4:18-19 says, “The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.” Here, we see that Jesus came to minister to those who felt that their lives were useless and make those lives useful.

Third, God sent Jesus to send forth justice to victory and said in His name Gentiles will trust. We saw that the word translated “justice” means *those things that are right or wrong*. Many Jews wanted judgment for the Gentiles because of past sins committed against the Jews. In contrast, we see that Jesus focused on bringing Gentiles to Himself so that they could experience victory, instead of judgment. 1 Corinthians 15:55-57 says, “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law. But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” This was not the kind of leader the Jews were seeking at the time of Jesus. They were looking for a leader who would conquer the Romans and restore to them the control of their land. Instead, these prophecies from Isaiah showed that Jesus would be gentle and loving. He would give purpose in life to those whose lives had previously been useless. He would reach out to the Gentiles and bring salvation to many Gentiles. That was why many of the Jews who were interested in learning more about Jesus as He began His ministry, turned away from Him when they saw that He was not going to conquer the Romans or restore their land to their control.

We go on to read, in Matthew 12:22-23, “Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. And all the multitudes were amazed and said, ‘Could this be the Son of David?’” Jesus had been healing all who came to Him. In these verses, we read about one particular person that Jesus healed. Here, we see that this man was demon-possessed. As we look at the various demon-possessed people that Jesus healed, we see that the demons affected the people in a variety of different ways. In Matthew 8:28-34, we see that two demon-possessed men were exceedingly fierce so that no one could pass that way. In Matthew 9:32-33, we see that a demon caused a man to be mute. The word translated “mute” means *to be deaf and unable to speak*. In Mark 9:14-29, we see that a demon caused a child to often foam at the mouth, fall to the ground, and often tried to throw him into the fire or water to destroy him.

These other passages show us that demons did many different things to people, but all of them were destructive. This reminds us of John 10:10 which speaks of the fact that the goal of Satan is always to destroy in various ways. That verse says, “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.” This verse makes it clear that the goal of Satan and his demons is always to steal, to kill and to destroy. Their goal is to take as many people as possible with them to eternal judgment. That certainly was the goal of the demon in this case, as we see that this demon caused this man to be blind and mute. The goal of demons is always to destroy.

In contrast, Jesus came to set people free and give them eternal life. We see that Jesus healed this man by casting out the demon. Once this demon was cast out of the man, we see that he was able both to speak and to see. We are going to see that this caused two very different responses among the people. We will look at one of those responses in this topic and the other response in the next topic. First, we see the response of the multitudes. Here, we see that the multitudes were filled with amazement. This caused the multitudes to ask a very important question.

Their question was, “Could this be the Son of David?” This was a very important question because they were asking if Jesus could be the promised Messiah that would come from the family of David. This is clearly shown when Jesus questioned the Pharisees in Matthew 22:41-42 where we read, “While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, ‘What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?’ They said to Him, ‘*The Son of David.*’” Here, we see that the Pharisees understood that the Christ would be a descendent of David. In fact, all of the Jews recognized that the Christ would be a descendent of David. That is why the multitudes began to ask if Jesus could be the Christ because they saw that Jesus had the power to defeat Satan and cast the demon out of this man. We will see in the next topic that the Pharisees made a very different choice to try and explain how Jesus had the power to cast out demons.

We want to help our physical and spiritual children understand clearly that Jesus showed that He was the promised Son of David, the Christ. We want to help our children learn to explain this passage clearly to others. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to explain that this is one passage that shows Jesus is the Christ.

