

The One I Love 10-31-04

Matthew 12:15-21 (NIV)

¹⁵ Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. Many followed him, and he healed all their sick, ¹⁶ warning them not to tell who he was. ¹⁷ This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: ¹⁸ "Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations. ¹⁹ He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets. ²⁰ A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory. ²¹ In his name the nations will put their hope."

Jesus' liberating teachings and healings on the Sabbath drew a sharp reaction from the religious leaders. They decided the only solution to Jesus' challenge to their stringent interpretation of the Law was to assassinate Him. (Matthew 12:14) They could not win an argument over the Law with the author. Nor could they convince the people He was wrong, because His words came with authority and conviction. (Matthew 7:29)

Our passage today deals with the character of Jesus during His earthly ministry. In His first coming, Jesus took on the form of a servant. (Philippians 2:6-8) He humbled Himself. I recently had a discussion with someone that really stirred me to be in awe of Jesus in His earthly ministry. They asked, "Did Jesus make decisions out of His divine nature OR as a man, did He rely on the Holy Spirit as we do?"

Here is my understanding, and it has everything to do with our passage today. Jesus emptied Himself to become a man, according to Paul in Philippians 2. There is much discussion as to what He emptied Himself of. Obviously, He set aside the glory He had with the Father, but I believe there is more. As I read the gospels, it became apparent to me that one of the things He set aside was His omniscience. He seems to know some things, but not others. (Matthew 21:2-3) (Matthew 24:36) He could read people's heart, but I think that is discernment as opposed to omniscience. (John 2:24-25)

John tells us that He would do nothing but what He is taught by the Father. (John 8:28) He also said that He would only speak as the Father spoke, (John 12:49-50) and judge as the Father judges. (John 5:30) He had to look to God to do that. That is why we read of Him spending the night in prayer before choosing His disciples, and often going to deserted place to pray. (Luke 6:12) (Mark 1:35) He was our perfect example of what a man could be and how a man should live. (Hebrews 2:17-18)

Most of us imagine that when He needed to make a decision or perform a miracle, He just leaned upon His divine nature and "presto" His omnipotence and omniscience were displayed. The Philippians 2 passage tells us that Jesus became obedient, even unto death. You cannot obey unless you receive instruction. (John 8:29) Recognizing the condition of being a man and knowing how vulnerable that made Him, He humbled Himself and became obedient. He only did as instructed by the Father, and so He had to spend time in prayer hearing from the Father.

Commented [notes1]: ¹⁴ But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus. Matthew 12:14 (NIV)

Commented [notes2]: ²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, ²⁹ because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law. Matthew 7:28-29 (NIV)

Commented [notes3]: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross! Philippians 2:6-8 (NIV)

Commented [notes4]: ² saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." ... [1]

Commented [notes5]: ³⁶ "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Matthew 24:36 (NIV)

Commented [notes6]: ²⁴ But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all men. ²⁵ He did not need man's testimony about man, for he knew what was in a man. ... [2]

Commented [notes7]: ²⁸ So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am [the one I claim to be] and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me ... [3]

Commented [notes8]: ⁴⁹ For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. ⁵⁰ I know that h ... [4]

Commented [notes9]: ³⁰ By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me. John 5:30 (NIV)

Commented [notes10]: ¹² One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. Luke 6:12 (NIV)

Commented [notes11]: ³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Mark 1:35 (NIV)

Commented [notes12]: ¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement ... [5]

Commented [notes13]: ²⁹ The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him." John 8:29 (NIV)

When these religious leaders threatened His life, He did not rise up and strike them with a plague, or cause the earth to open up and swallow them, or call fire from heaven. He would have been quite justified in doing so. He did it in the Old Testament. He certainly could have done something dramatic that would have shown His glory and put those religious leaders on their faces trembling in fear of the wrath of God, but this was not the time. (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10)

You see, you and I cannot do that, so, Jesus did not. He is our example in everything. Instead of blasting them as hypocrites, His Father instructed Him to just move out of town and work in a different area. The time will come when He will blast them verbally, but it will be when He is ready to go to the cross for us all. (Luke 9:51)

Once we realize that Jesus lived His life as a man, though He was all God, suddenly we see how far short we are from what God intends us to be. Jesus' life was a statement of the possibility of what man could do, what man should be. (Hebrews 2:11) How else could He say, "As the Father has sent me, so send I you"? His life declared, "This is what it looks like to walk in the Spirit in communion with the Father." Now when I read Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," I have a picture of how short my life comes from the standard, the life of Jesus. If you have a hard time being convinced of your sin, look at the life of Jesus and compare His life with yours. Suddenly the conviction takes on a completely new dimension. We cannot use the excuse, "But He was God."

Now I understand why Jesus could say, "Greater works than these you will do." (John 14:12) If we walk in the Spirit, our life will be like that of Jesus, humble submission to the Father. We will be totally dependent on the Spirit for our every word and deed. (Romans 8:3-4) That is your potential. That is God's intention. (Romans 8:29) No wonder Paul wrote that we are predestined to be conformed to the likeness of the Son. But oh, how short we fall!

¹⁵ *Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. Many followed him, and he healed all their sick,* ¹⁶ *warning them not to tell who he was.*

Instead of confronting the religious leaders, Jesus moved on to other areas and healed all the sick. This is one of a number of passages that tell us there was no illness that Jesus could not deal with. (Matthew 4:24) He did not always heal all the sick in sight, but He healed all that came to Him for healing and some who did not. Nothing is out of the realm of the ability of the Spirit of God to heal and make whole, no physical, psychological, or spiritual illness is too great. No matter what your condition is, there is hope. Then He warned the people not to talk about it, as it would stir up more trouble for Him.

Here Matthew tells us that this humble spirit of Jesus is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prediction about Cyrus. Often a prophecy will have an immediate fulfillment and an ultimate fulfillment. This is the first of a number of Suffering Servant songs. It was very important for Matthew to tell the Jews about these predictions because they were focused on the predictions of the Second Coming. They wanted to see power, not meekness. They wanted to see force, not humility. (Acts 1:6) We can learn from

Commented [notes14]: ⁷ and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. ⁸ He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power ¹⁰ on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.
2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 (NIV)

Commented [notes15]: ⁵¹ As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.
Luke 9:51 (NIV)

Commented [notes16]: ¹¹ Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.
Hebrews 2:11 (NIV)

Commented [notes17]: ¹² I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.
John 14:12 (NIV)

Commented [notes18]: ³ For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.
Romans 8:3-4 (NIV)

Commented [notes19]: ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.
Romans 8:29 (NIV)

Commented [notes20]: ²⁴ News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them.
Matthew 4:24 (NIV)

Commented [notes21]: ⁶ So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"
Acts 1:6 (NIV)

this, for we so often demand that God act, instead of quietly listening to God's heart in the situation we are in and then submitting to His will. (1 Chronicles 29:11)

Listen to how Matthew describes the Messiah's ministry.

¹⁸ "Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations. ¹⁹ He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets. ²⁰ A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory. ²¹ In his name the nations will put their hope."

This quote from Matthew is found in Isaiah 42:1-4. Jesus is the One God loves. When God chose to speak audibly from heaven, He said, "This is my Son Whom I love. In Him, I am well pleased." It is a quote from this passage. God lives in the Eternal Now. He said this hundreds of years before Christ through Isaiah at the same time He uttered it over the baptismal waters of Jesus (Matthew 3:16-17) and on the mount of Transfiguration. (Matthew 17:5) Alternatively, we could say that Hosea looked forward centuries in time and overheard God speak this. It is an eternal utterance.

"My Servant" What a title! He is the Servant of God, the One God claims as His. It is one of the many beautiful names of Jesus, and it is a name that you too can be known by. Some of the prophets were known as God's Servant. It is the highest title man can have.

"The One I love, in Whom I delight." God has always been pleased with Jesus because they have inhabited eternity together as one. They share the same attributes, have the same perfections, and are one. As a man upon the earth, nothing changed. He was still one with the Father in His heart. He always submitted His will and direction to the Father. (Acts 10:38) The Father's will is what is good. (Psalm 119:68) If we want to do well and be a delight to the Father, we will do the same.

Nevertheless, knowing that we would fall so short, Jesus lived that perfect life for us. The righteousness of His life of obedience is credited to us when we accept His sacrifice in our place. (Romans 3:22) When I see I have fallen so short of the glory of God, I have recourse. It is not to suddenly be perfect, for that is the gradual process called sanctification. (Proverbs 4:18) It is to be in Christ. When God looks upon me, He is delighted. He expresses love, not because I am already perfect, but because I am in the One who is. When you are in Jesus, when you are abiding in Him, God says of you, "This is my son, in whom I delight!" (Zephaniah 3:17) Oh, what a relief. What joy we should have knowing we are totally accepted by God. I messed up yesterday. I said things that were not in the Spirit, but oh, as I hide myself in the gracious forgiveness of Christ I still hear, "This is the one I love, in whom my soul delights." I confess my sin and He is faithful and just to forgive my sin and cleanse me from all unrighteousness. And so, there is no condemnation to those who are in Jesus.

Can you get hold of the joy that should come with that? He loves me. He is delighted in me. The Creator of heaven and earth is pleased with me because I am in His Son. No wonder He says all things are mine! (1 Corinthians 3:21) No wonder

Commented [notes22]: ¹¹ Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.
1 Chronicles 29:11 (NIV)

Commented [notes23]: ¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."
Matthew 3:16-17 (NIV)

Commented [notes24]: ⁵ While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"
Matthew 17:5 (NIV)

Commented [notes25]: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.
Acts 10:38 (NIV)

Commented [notes26]: ⁶⁸ You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees.
Psalms 119:68 (NIV)

Commented [notes27]: ²² This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference,
Romans 3:22 (NIV)

Commented [notes28]: ¹⁸ But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.
Proverbs 4:18 (KJV)

Commented [notes29]: 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."
Zephaniah 3:17 (NIV)

Commented [notes30]: ²¹ So then, no more boasting about men! All things are yours,
1 Corinthians 3:21 (NIV)

He promises to finish the work He began in me! (Philippians 1:6) Can you grab hold of the reality that God is delighted with you when you are in His Son? If God delights in me, what wonderful favor and guidance are mine if I will listen and receive! (Isaiah 55:3)

Commented [notes31]: ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6 (NIV)

^{18b} *I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations.* If He were not fully man there would have been no need for the Spirit to be upon Him. Remember when He came up out of the baptismal waters, when those words came from heaven, John the Baptist saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove upon Him. (Matthew 3:16) Isaiah also prophesied, ² *The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him--the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD--* Isaiah 11:2 (NIV) Jesus' human nature needed the Spirit of God to give Him wisdom, understanding, counsel, power, and knowledge, and if He needed Him, we certainly do!

Commented [notes32]: ³ Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. Isaiah 55:3 (NIV)

Commented [notes33]: ¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. Matthew 3:16 (NIV)

Man needs the Spirit of God to live a Christ like life. (Romans 8:8-9) Jesus knew the need. All humankind has this great need, and so Jesus' work made it possible for us to receive the Spirit of God. (John 14:26) Then, we, His body, also proclaim justice to the nations. *The Lord proclaimed the Word and great was the company of those who published it.* Psalm 68:11 You see, this is also about us, His body, as we share with the nations of the world the justice measured out on sin upon the cross. He has put His Spirit on us, within us, and enabled us to be His instruments in the earth.

Commented [notes34]: ⁸ Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. ⁹ You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. Romans 8:8-9 (NIV)

Commented [notes35]: ²⁶ But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. John 14:26 (NIV)

¹⁹ *He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets.* Jesus' first coming was a quiet, humble ministry. He did not debate. He quietly declared the truth. It is interesting to see the way Jesus squelched quarrels. He quoted Scripture with such a clear and precise application that no one could answer. He made statements of fact that left everyone with nothing to say. We saw it in the passage two weeks ago, *"Go and learn what this means, I desire mercy not sacrifice."* Matthew 9:13 *"You err in not knowing the Scriptures,"* He would say... *"Have you not read that God is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? He is the God of the living, not the dead."* Matthew 22:32 His answers left His critics speechless. *"Give to Caesar what is Caesar and to God what is God's."* Matthew 22:21 *"He that is without sin may cast the first stone."* John 8:7 What can you say? He did not need to quarrel or cry out because the Spirit of wisdom and understanding was upon Him.

So can I ask you to consider why we quarrel and raise our voices? What does that mean? I think you get it. We are in the flesh, not walking in Jesus. If the Spirit of God is upon us, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, there is no need to quarrel or raise our voice. If He is not upon us, better not to speak at all! When we are in the Spirit our answers are the last word. Now I must add that Jesus did tell us that what He tells us in secret we are to shout from the rooftops. This is the declaration of the Gospel. You can be loud about the good news of Jesus, but not to quarrel and debate. Listen to what Paul taught Timothy. ²⁴ *And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.* 2 Timothy 2:24 (NIV) He was asking Timothy to be Christ like.

20 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory.

Shepherds used reeds to make soft music to calm the sheep, but like men, reeds are delicate. Once cracked or bent it was no longer of use. The shepherd would break it and toss it aside. A smoldering wick is one that has burned down until there is nothing left to burn. It only smokes and gives no light. It, too, is useless and tossed aside. Some of you may feel like you are a broken reed or a smoldering wick. You can no longer sing your song, or give light. Many in Jesus' day thought that because the religious elite rejected them for one reason or another, they were useless to God, throwaways, "sinners". However, these are the very people that Jesus is attracted to. He is the friend of tax collectors and sinners. They are humble bruised people that are more than grateful that He would share with them. He brought justice upon their sins and led them to victory at the cross.

He will not throw you away either, or snuff you out. He wants to lead justice to victory in your life. Jesus wants to take what for man had become useless and make an instrument that glorifies God. The justice upon sin that was measured out on the cross gained an instant victory over death and hell. It gains victory daily in the lives of those who accept that justice that fell upon Christ for them. They go from uselessness to fruitfulness for the eternal Kingdom of God. What a victory!

21 In his name the nations will put their hope.

There is hope in the name of Jesus. When nations come under attack, when evil threatens to take over nations, they turn to Jesus and place their hope in Him. There is no other hope that has so permeated the nations of the world than the hope of salvation through Jesus' sacrifice in our place. Where is your hope placed?

Some put their hope in this life, in getting all they can out of the world. (1 Timothy 6:9) You will not find anyone that says that they have found true satisfaction from that route. You can put your hope in wealth. Funny thing is, the richer you get, the more you think you need. (Ephesians 4:19) You can place your hope in people, but eventually people will let you down. (Jeremiah 17:5) Ask any elderly person. In fact, that is a wonderful way to gain insight. Ask every elderly person you can what he or she has placed their hope in and if it really met their need. You will find that only One can meet the great needs in the heart of man, the One in which the nations put their hope.

Jesus did not come to offer hope just to the Jewish nation, but to all the nations of the world. To all the bruised reeds and smoldering wicks, He brings hope and victory. Will you let Him bring justice to victory in your life? Will you place your hope in Him? Bruised reed and smoldering wick, Jesus wants to make a trophy of grace out of your life. Will you let Him? When you consider our life should be like that of Jesus, we are all broken reeds and smoldering wicks. We all need Him to lead justice to victory in our lives!

Commented [notes36]: ⁹ People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.

1 Timothy 6:9 (NIV)

Commented [notes37]: ¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

Ephesians 4:19 (NIV)

Commented [notes38]: ⁵ This is what the LORD says: "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the LORD.

Jeremiah 17:5 (NIV)

Page 1: [1] Commented [notes4] notes

² saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."
Matthew 21:2-3 (NIV)

Page 1: [2] Commented [notes6] notes

²⁴ But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all men. ²⁵ He did not need man's testimony about man, for he knew what was in a man.
John 2:24-25 (NIV)

Page 1: [3] Commented [notes7] notes

²⁸ So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am [the one I claim to be] and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.
John 8:28 (NIV)

Page 1: [4] Commented [notes8] notes

⁴⁹ For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. ⁵⁰ I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say."
John 12:49-50 (NIV)

Page 1: [5] Commented [notes12] notes

¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.
Hebrews 2:17-18 (NIV)