

He Cares for You

This week is the mid point of our curriculum year: *A Place to Heal*. We certainly hope you've been encouraged and uplifted. But more than that, we hope you've been challenged. What is your place in the role of creating an atmosphere of warmth, openness, compassion, and love? In our lesson today, I want to take a look at Matthew 12.15-21. This passage is one of the best in showing us how to begin the transformation of a Christianity characterized primarily by profession ... and becoming one of action. We must become a people of:

I. Matthew 12.15 - Compassion

- A. 12.15 - Jesus is totally focused on the needs of others. *Large crowds followed him, and he **healed them all**.*
 - 1. Matthew 9.36: Jesus had deep concern for people. His heart is breaking.
 - 2. The people were *distressed and **dejected***.
- B. 12.15 - no person who needed help was cut off.
 - 1. The heart of God is especially toward those who suffer:
 - 2. Psalm 113:5-9: *He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the **trash heap** in order to seat them with nobles— with the nobles of his people.*

II. Matthew 12.18-19 - Humility

- A. 12.18 - *I will put my **Spirit** on Him.*
 - 1. Why did Jesus need the Spirit? Philippians 2.6-7 - Jesus **emptied** Himself.
 - 2. Luke 4.18 - His ministry was carried out by the Spirit's power.
- B. 12.19 - *He will not argue or **shout**...*
 - 1. Jesus always spoke with wisdom and dignity.
 - 2. Ecclesiastes 9.17: *The **calm** words of the wise are heeded more than the shouts of a ruler over fools.*

III. Matthew 12.20-21 - Encouragement

- A. 12.20 - *He will not break a bruised **reed**.* Jesus would never have further injured something that was already injured.
- B. 12.20b - *he will not put out a smoldering **wick**.*
- C. Jesus: gives strength to the weak; lifts up the fallen; comforts those who mourn; forgives the sinner.

IV. As We Close... how do we make this real?

- A. Live in humility
- B. Seek the good of others
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 10:24: *No one is to seek his own **good**, but the good of the other person.*
- C. Move with patience and love
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 13:4-5: *Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not arrogant, is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not irritable, and does not keep a record of wrongs.*
 - 2. Love is the deepest and the hardest Christian doctrine to practice.
- D. True happiness is found by embracing the ways of Christ. Have you done so?