



Daily Reflections

July 21, 2018

Scripture

Matthew 12: 14-21

The Pharisees went out and took counsel against Jesus to put him to death.

When Jesus realized this, he withdrew from that place.

Many people followed him, and he cured them all, but he warned them not to make him known.

This was to fulfill what had been spoken through Isaiah the prophet:

Behold, my servant whom I have chosen,

my beloved in whom I delight;

I shall place my Spirit upon him,

and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.

He will not contend or cry out,

nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets.

A bruised reed he will not break,

a smoldering wick he will not quench,

until he brings justice to victory.

And in his name the Gentiles will hope.

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus did not withdraw from where He was out of fear. As Matthew tells us using the words of the Prophet Isaiah He had to "Bring Justice to victory." In other words, the Pharisees had no power over Him because He was carrying

out the Father's mission for Him which was to bring a victory of justice to this sinful world. That would not happen until He arrived at Calvary.

Food for your Journey

The dominant curriculum for Jesus is found in the long prophetic tradition, particularly in the words of Isaiah, who is quoted frequently throughout the gospels and the rest of the New Testament. Many of the references to Isaiah fall within the sections known as the "Servant Songs" from Isaiah 40–66. The "servant," according to Isaiah, is God's servant, and it is through his representative actions and suffering that Israel will be healed and returned from exile.

According to the New Testament, Jesus clearly saw his life and ministry to, with and for Israel and the world as being shaped and informed by the mission of the "servant." If education shapes our worldview, Jesus' own worldview was dominated by this prophetic hope. He would indeed embody it in his own person.

A Prayer from the Heart

Heavenly Father, Your Son Jesus was resolute and determined to carry out Your plan for our salvation. No power could deter Him. Help me, Lord, to be resolute and determined to live out my calling as His disciple. May I never become discouraged by my weaknesses and failures. May I find my strength in Jesus Who gave everything for me. Amen