“A BRUISED REED HE WILL NOT BREAK”

Matthew 12:15–21

Key Verses: 12:20,21

1. How does Matthew begin this passage? (15a) What is the significance that Jesus “withdrew from there”? (see also 2:12,14,22; 4:12; 14:13a; 15:21; cf. 10:23a)
2. What happened, and what did Jesus do? (15b) How is he a contrast to the Pharisees? (14; 11:29) After healing them, why did he order people not to make him known? (16; cf. 9:30; 16:20; 17:9)
3. What does the author Matthew say about this? (17; cf. 8:17) In verses 18–21 what passage does he quote? What is the significance that Jesus fulfills this prophecy?
4. How do the opening words of Isaiah’s prophecy describe Jesus? (18a; cf. 3:17; 17:5) What did God do for him, and why? (18b; 3:16) What might this “justice” mean?
5. How else does this prophecy describe Jesus? (19) How is he an example for us? How does he treat a “bruised reed” and “smoldering wick” (20a), and what does this mean to us? (cf. 1Ti1:16) What can we learn from this about how to experience and practice his healing?
6. What is his ultimate goal, and what does this mean? (20b) How do people respond to him, and why? (21)