

July 2, 2017

The Opposition Illustrated (2)

Matthew 12:15-37

Third Episode (v. 14-21)

- Matthew explains that Jesus' ministry was fulfilling the prophecy of the Servant of the Lord as described in **Isaiah 42:1-6**.

- Matthew is proving that Jesus is Israel's expected Messiah.
 - "My Servant" – Jesus came to do the will of the Father (**John 6:38**).

 - "Whom I have chosen" – **1 Peter 2:4; Luke 23:35**

 - "My beloved with Whom My Soul is well pleased" – **Matt. 3:17**

 - "My Spirit upon Him" – **Matt. 3:16**

 - "He will proclaim justice to the Gentiles" – **Luke 2:31-32**
 - Jesus' ministry was not restricted to the Jews; it also proclaimed God's merciful justice to all nations (**Rom. 3:21-26; 4:25**).

- *“A bruised reed He will not break...”*
 - These verses describe the method and effect of Jesus’ ministry. God’s Servant came to love people into God’s Kingdom as He exercised Godly gentleness (**Gal. 5:23**) in caring for the needs of God’s people (**Rom. 2:4; John 13:34-35**).

- *“And in His Name the Gentiles will hope.”*
 - The power of Jesus’ love overflowed the borders of Israel (**Gen. 1:28**).

- This prophecy reveals the stark difference between the motive and ministry of Jesus and the motive and ministry of Israel’s religious leaders (**Ez. 34**).

- In keeping with **Ez. 34:11-16**, Jesus came to apply the balm of God’s Law to free the people from their burden, while, in keeping with **Ez. 34:1-10**, the Pharisees were laying the heavy burden of their own traditions upon the people.

- The Heavenly Gospel frees but the earthly gospel binds (**Gal. 1:6-9**).

Fourth Episode (*v. 22-37*)

- A demon possessed man was brought to Jesus and when He healed him, the crowd asked if Jesus was the son of David (**2 Sam. 12**).

- The Pharisees accused Jesus of sorcery, by being in league with Satan, which required the death penalty (**Ex. 22:18**).
- Jesus told them that their theology was not only ridiculous, but damning.
- Jesus compared them to trees that produced bad fruit because of their evil hearts.
- There is a Day of Judgment coming:

***Matt 25:31-33** When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left*

- The words and deeds of the unrighteous will prove their rejection of Christ (**Rom. 1:18**) unto eternal condemnation, while the words and deeds of the righteous will prove their faith in Christ unto eternal salvation.
- The Heavenly Man will reward all of His people according to their words and deeds:

***2 Cor 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil*