

**Gospel of Matthew “Bruised Reeds”**  
**Matthew 12:15-21**  
**April 23, 2023**

Matthew 12:15-21

15 Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. And many followed him, and he healed them all 16 and ordered them not to make him known. 17 This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah:

18 “Behold, my servant whom I have chosen,  
my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased.  
I will put my Spirit upon him,  
and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.  
19 He will not quarrel or cry aloud,  
nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets;  
20 a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a smoldering wick he will not quench,  
until he brings justice to victory;  
21 and in his name the Gentiles will hope.”

The sabbath controversy.

Jesus “withdrew.”

Matthew 12:18-19

18 “Behold, my servant whom I have chosen,  
my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased.  
I will put my Spirit upon him,  
and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.  
19 He will not quarrel or cry aloud,  
nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets;

Biblical greatness is less about how high you climb and more about how low you stoop.

Jesus’ strength does not lead to insensitivity.

Matthew 12:20-21

20 a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a smoldering wick he will not quench,  
until he brings justice to victory;  
21 and in his name the Gentiles will hope.”

“Think of all things he *could* break and you begin to see the wonder in what he *won’t* break.”

“Bring justice” means that Jesus has a plan for the kingdom to come and be established on earth as it is in heaven.

Genesis 3:15- bruising and crushing.

Isaiah 53:4-5

4 Surely he has borne our griefs  
and carried our sorrows;

yet we esteemed him stricken,  
smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
and with his wounds we are healed.

Because Jesus is willing to be bruised for us, we can trust him with our deepest pains and hurts.

### **Grow Group Discussion Questions**

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- Have you ever wondered about the way Jesus ministered- performing a miracle and then telling people not to talk about it, or withdrawing instead of advancing and winning over all the people. What explanation might explain his pattern of ministry?
- Discuss how Matthew sees the way Jesus retreats and Isaiah 42 as a verification that Jesus is the Messiah?
- If Jesus moves in and out, and back and forth, then what might that mean for our own relationship with Him?
- Explain the meaning of “A bruised reed he will not break.” What characteristic of Jesus is revealed? How might this adjust our thoughts about Jesus in the light of our issues, brokenness and sin?
- Discuss the hope generated by not only Jesus’ gentleness but His commitment to bring justice? Why is justice important?
- Finish the sentence, “If Jesus would be bruised and crushed for me, then I can \_\_\_\_ “
- From you Grow Group time, what is an idea or two from your discussion that you can work to apply this week?