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## *Devotion for October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

*"But the Pharisees went out and conspired against Him, how to destroy Him. Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. And many followed Him, and He healed them all and ordered them not to make Him known. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: '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. He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets; a bruised reed He will not break, and a smoldering wick He will not quench, until He brings justice to victory, and in His name the Gentiles will hope.'"*

*- Matthew 12:14-21*

**Previous to our Bible passage for today, Our Lord and His disciples had just done a couple of things on the Sabbath that the Pharisees saw as doing work on the Sabbath.** The disciples had picked a few heads of grain to eat and Jesus had restored a man with a withered hand. In both cases Jesus explained to them that neither of these were wrong. He told them that He was and is the Son of Man and that the Son of Man was and is the Lord of the Sabbath. The Pharisees did not like being corrected and started to plan His death.

In our passage for today, Jesus had just left them and many of the crowd followed Him. Jesus healed them all, but told them not to make Him known.

Matthew writes that the way Jesus acted was to fulfill one of Isaiah's prophecies. We know that God spoke through Isaiah as one of His prophets of the Old Testament. Jesus fulfilled all of the Old Testament prophecies in many cases thousands of years later.

So, let's look at Isaiah's prophecy that Matthew recounts in our passage. First of all, Jesus didn't quarrel with the Pharisees, He merely corrected them and even revealed who He was: the Son of Man. He didn't go up and down the streets preaching who He was.

Jesus also fulfilled the first part of the prophecy when He was baptized. It became very clear that Jesus was God's chosen One. God put His Spirit on Him. The Spirit as a dove came down from heaven onto Jesus and God also proclaimed that Jesus was His beloved Son in whom He was well pleased. So Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit by His Father in heaven as His chosen One at Jesus' baptism.

So, let's go deeper into the prophecy. When Jesus went to the cross He was beaten, whipped, and had a crown of thorns jammed onto His head, yet as a bruised reed, He did not break. As a smoldering wick, He was nailed to the cross and died there for your sins and mine.

The prophecy spoke of Jesus not breaking or being quenched. He did die - is this breaking or being quenched? I don't think so. Breaking or being quenched to me has to do with turning from His mission, the reason His Father sent Him. Jesus always had the power within Himself to save Himself from any suffering He was going through and even from His death on the cross.

However, if He did save Himself, He would have been disobedient to His Father in heaven. I can't even imagine what would have happened if this took place, but Jesus didn't break, His mission wasn't quenched, and He died sinless. Satan and his fallen angels and his followers were trying their best to make Jesus turn from His mission through all the suffering they were putting Him through.

Jesus allowed them to do this, because it was His mission to voluntarily die for the sins of the world. So, Jesus defeated sin by living and dying under the Law but not sinning, and He defeated death on Easter morning because He was raised from the dead by the Holy Spirit sent by His Father, as He didn't deserve to die.

Therefore, Jesus faithfully brought forth justice. The prince of this world, Satan, was defeated and in the end will be thrown into the eternal lake of fire along with all of the fallen angels and his followers. We have the forgiveness of sins and the hope of everlasting life, because we believe and trust in Jesus.

*In Christ Jesus,  
Rev. John Kyle, Associate Pastor  
Grace Lutheran Church & School*

