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Wonderful, Beautiful Savior; Matt 12:15-21

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Introduction – Matthew 12:14 is startling. Read. This resolute, hard-and-fast decision of the Pharisees to destroy Jesus is absolutely stunning for several reasons. First, Jesus has just schooled them in the Scripture. They are supposed to be the masters of the OT, and yet, Jesus, in two instances in ch12, has demonstrated from the Scripture how they have misunderstood and misapplied the Scripture. Now, you would think, once the emotions settle down, the Pharisees, who claim to know God, might reason, if Jesus knows so much about the Scripture, maybe we need to learn from Him. But no, they want to kill Him.

Second, Jesus has just completely, instantly, publicly, leaving no doubt in anyone's mind, healed a man's withered hand by just speaking the words "stretch out your hand." If anything says, "Hey, we need to listen to what He has to say," it would be that! But no, they want to kill Him.

Third, if Jesus can completely restore a withered hand by just speaking the words, why would they think they could kill such a man? And yet, they conspire to kill Him. Jealousy, envy, loss of income, disbelief, something has caused them to go insane.

Well, that's exactly what the hardened, sinful heart does. It insanely rejects, and even hates, its only means of renewal and salvation. But that's just one side of the story. It's one thing to reject and hate Jesus after He has demonstrated through teaching and healing that He is the Messiah. In today's text, we see the other side of the travesty of rejecting Jesus. Look at the Savior we reject when we reject Jesus. He's not just the Omnipotent Savior, He's the Wonderful, Beautiful Savior!

I. The Gentle Healer (vv15-16)

- a. Three things to see in these two verses about this Gentle Healer.
- b. First, we need to know the only reason Jesus withdrew was because it was not His time to be betrayed, arrested, and crucified. There would come a time when Jesus had accomplished His ministry and would then offer Himself as our sacrifice, but that time had not arrived yet.

- i. He didn't withdraw from fear. He withdrew because He, and He alone, was in sovereign control of His time to die. Acts 2:22-23 – “delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God”
- c. Second, He ordered them not to make Him known. Jesus often does this. He purposefully downplays His rising popularity. He intentionally keeps His glory minimized. Why?
 - i. We usually assume it has to do with timing, just as His withdrawal was about the timing of His ministry and death.
 - ii. But Matthew says, and this is very interesting, Matthew says the reason why Jesus tells those He has healed to remain quiet about Him had more to do with His character than with thinking that the course of events may rush too fast and speed things up too soon.
 - iii. V17 – vv18-21 prophecy about who He is, what type of Savior He is. And He is unlike any other. He's entirely different than any other person with power or authority or popularity. He doesn't seek to draw attention to Himself. He doesn't seek man's approval or fame. He doesn't post His miracles on Instagram to build His followers.
 - iv. He's not out to grasp the spotlight. He's gentle. He's humble. He's totally void of pride, arrogance, and self-promotion. Which according to Isaiah, is another pointed prophetic identification that He is indeed the Son of God.
- d. Third, just note, that everyone who followed Him, He healed them all. He healed them all.
 - i. There are two things that the miracles of Jesus tell us. One, that He is God in the flesh. Remember in ch11, John the Baptist, discouraged and doubting in prison, inquired if Jesus was the One who was to come. And Jesus answered by telling John's disciples to go back and tell him what you hear and see. The miracles tell us that Jesus is God.
 - ii. But there's a second, wonderful, glorious truth the miracles of Jesus proclaim to us. What Jesus did on a small scale during His first coming, He will do on a global scale upon His second coming. The miracles of the first coming point to the

glorification and healing of every single believer to new bodies of glory untouched and unstained by sin.

iii. Just as Jesus healed everyone who followed Him in ch12, He will heal everyone who follows Him when He returns.

iv. III. Kay Miller

e. He is a Wonderful, Beautiful Savior. He is the Gentle Healer.

II. The Beloved and Anointed One (vv17-18)

a. V18 tells us that the Son was chosen for this mission, and the Father's choice of the Son arises from His deep, eternal, perfect love for the Son, and His delight in the Son.

i. O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

b. He's not only beloved of the Father, He is anointed with the Spirit. Jesus, in His divinity, was God in full, but in His humanity, He took on our flesh and was just as we are. What sustained Jesus in His humanity, throughout His earthly ministry, while He grew and learned obedience, and while He endured hunger and thirst and rejection, and ultimately, while He endured the cross, the Spirit of God strengthened and sustained His humanity to fulfill the mission.

c. Let's just pause for a moment and take something in here. The Bible uses the same language when it talks about God's choosing of us to be His own, and also when it speaks to where we find the strength to live in our flesh to the glory of God.

i. 1 Thess 1:4-6

d. Lastly, we see in v18 the extent of the Son's ministry. Justice means the Son will establish a government to bring about justice. "To the Gentiles" means this government will not be restricted to the one nation of Israel, but will be over the entire world.

e. Not only is He a Gentle Healer, He is a just Ruler. He is the Wonderful, Beautiful Savior.

III. The Compassionate Provider (vv19-20)

a. He's not going to rule by being the loudest in the debate. He's going to rule by His sovereign power to do so. He doesn't have to fuss or yell or slander His opponents. He just simply appears.

- b. He's not boisterous or arrogant. In fact, He's compassionate, in tone and action. His rule does not ignore the fainthearted or roll over the weak. Instead, He tenderly cares and provides.
- c. This is glorious news for many of us today. We have bruised reeds among us. We have smoldering wicks among us. At times we are all like bruised reeds and smoldering wicks. At times we all are faint of faith and weak of heart and filled with doubt. The bruised reed has been bent by the winds of adversity and the smoldering wick has a flame of faith, but it is barely a flame of faith.
 - i. Some of us here today, we know we believe in Jesus, but we constantly question, we constantly doubt. We are constantly in turmoil. And therefore, we constantly wonder if we are believers at all. We are bruised. We are smoldering.
 - ii. Lift up your heads, you who are plagued with doubt. Lift up your eyes, you who are full of worry and fear. For we have a kind and compassionate Savior.
 - iii. He may let you bend, but He will not let you break. Your faith may have dwindled to the small glow of a coal, but He will not let your fire die out.
- d. He will sustain you, He will sustain your faith, until the day of victory!
 - i. Phil 1:6 – And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.
 - ii. 1 Thess 5:24 – He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

IV. The Hope of the Ages (v21)

- a. This again goes back to the expanse of Jesus' mission as the Father's servant. He's not only the hope of the Jews; He's the hope of the Gentiles. He's the hope of the world.
- b. I stand before you today as a Gentile. I am not among those who were born from Abraham. I am not among those to whom the Law was given. I am not among those to whom the prophets spoke. I am not among those from whom the Messiah was born. I am a Gentile, and yet, My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Conclusion – Before you reject, and despise, and even hate Jesus for not being the Savior you think He should be, take a look at the Savior He is – the Wonderful, Beautiful Savior!