

**Message #42****Matthew 12:15-21**

When Jesus Christ first showed up on the scene as King of Israel, things were exciting. However, as time went on things became much more difficult. Yet every move of Jesus Christ was in precise conformity with the eternal program of God. Everything Jesus Christ did while He was here one earth was perfectly consistent with the will and program of God. It didn't matter if He were slamming over tables in the temple, healing people or hiding out—every move was precise.

Now this passage of Scripture is absolutely amazing because it establishes that not only does Christ know what is happening with Israel, but that the animosity aimed against Jesus Christ was within the sovereign program of God so His program could swing to the Gentiles.

**EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED TO JESUS CHRIST, EVEN THE NEGATIVE THINGS, WERE NOT ONLY FULLY KNOWN BY JESUS CHRIST, BUT WERE ACTUALLY A FULFILLMENT OF THE PROGRAM OF GOD.**

Nothing was happening by chance. No matter how negative things became, God was still sovereign and His program was still operative.

**PART #1 – The response of Jesus to the Pharisees. 12:15a**

Jesus Christ was completely aware that the Pharisees were plotting to destroy Him. He knew what these Sabbath controversies were all about—they were plots to destroy Him. His response was to withdraw from the area. Now this is a critical point as we will see in a moment for this is a point in time when Jesus begins to withdraw from Israel. This is a key turning point in the program of God.

God only lets people reject Him for so long and then He withdraws from them. When God convicts, His conviction only lasts so long and then it is gone. The program of God does not last forever with any group or any individual. God, in His grace, gives people time to respond; but when His Word and will are abandoned, He shuts His program down.

**PART #2 – The response of the people to Jesus. 12:15b**

The people were still following Jesus, many of whom had diseases and sicknesses, and Jesus healed them all. Even though things were hostile and hateful against Him, He still kept ministering. Their motive for following Him was mostly because He was a miraculous healer, not because they believed He was the Messiah.

It is not easy to keep at it when you know there are people against you. The tendency can be to throw up your hands and say forget about ministry. But it is very Christ-like to keep ministering even when your own world is negative.

**PART #3** – The response of Jesus to the people. **12:15c-21**

**(Response #1)** - The physical response.

Christ physically healed everyone. Not one disease was left out. The power of God can heal every kind of disease and illness. What is so sad is that many experienced the healing power of God, but not the spiritual power of God. Their sicknesses were healed but they still had their sin. People today receive many blessings from God, but they still do not deal with their sin.

**(Response #2)** - The verbal response.

**Verbal Response #1** - Jesus warns people not to make Him known. **12:16**

To publicize Him would be to invite more opposition at the present time and it was not time yet for Christ to go to the cross. Jesus must have looked like a common Jew, for apparently He could mingle among people and had to be pointed out.

**Verbal Response #2** - Jesus informs people that this is a fulfillment of prophecy. **12:17-21**

The rejection of Jesus Christ by Israel did not take God by surprise. In fact, this is precisely what Isaiah predicted would happen. Now the quote is from Isaiah 42:1-4. I doubt seriously that most who read these verses see the Messianic importance of them, but the truth is these verses in Isaiah are a series of Messianic prophetic predictions.

**(Fact #1)** - Jesus is the chosen servant of God. **12:18a**

The entire Trinity shows up in this verse. God the Father has chosen God the Son to be the only one who can save sinners.

**(Fact #2)** - Jesus is the beloved, who is well-pleasing to God the Father. **12:18b**  
He is the only One who pleases the Father.

**(Fact #3)** - Jesus has God's Spirit upon Him. **12:18c**

**(Fact #4)** - Jesus will proclaim salvation to the Gentiles. **12:18d**

**(Fact #5)** - Jesus will not verbally cry out demanding some political revolt. **12:19**

**(Fact #6)** - Jesus would be mistreated, but that would not stop His program. **12:20**

**(Fact #7)** - Jesus is the One who will bring hope to the Gentiles. **12:21**

Christ's rejection by Israel led to the potential of Gentiles being right with God. God has allowed the Gospel of grace to swing to the Gentiles. He is the One who can save any sinner.