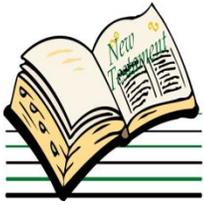


Sermon Notes



Title: "Jesus Withdraws From Conflict for a Time"

Text: Matthew 12:15-21

Theme: Jesus did not remove Himself from conflict because He was afraid or weary. He drew back from opposition because His mission was not to bring the Kingdom of God in through an ostentatious show of power or political might. The demonstration of power would come at the right time and in the right way.

I. Jesus Strategically _____ from Conflict (15-16)

II. The _____ Basis for Jesus' Ministry as Messiah (17-21)

A. His _____ Qualities (18a,b,c)

B. The _____ of Jesus' Ministry (18d-20b)

C. The _____ of Jesus' Ministry (20c-21)

III. Applications to Observe

A. God's people should not _____ or _____ out _____ for _____ sake.

B. The way we _____ and _____ the faith should reflect both the _____ and the _____ of our Lord.

C. God's people are to foster a ministry of _____ to the _____ and _____ who are willing to receive help.

Next Week Read: Matthew 12:22-37

Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group:

1. What prompted Jesus to leave the area where He was (vv. 14-15a)?
2. When Jesus left the place where He had been ministering, what did He do then (v. 15b)?
3. What unusual command did Jesus give to those who had followed Him (v. 16)?
4. Why did Jesus give this order (v. 17)?
5. What was a popular, yet misguided view of the Messiah in Jesus' day?
6. What key words in Isaiah's prophecy alerts us that he spoke about the LORD's Messiah (v. 18a)?
7. What is the LORD's assessment of Jesus (v. 18b)?
8. What was the source of Jesus' power in ministry (v. 18c)?
9. What was Jesus manner in ministering to people (vv. 18d-20b)?
10. What were (are) the effects of Jesus' ministry (vv. 20c-21)?
11. How should you view the issue of opposition for the sake of the Gospel as it relates to your life? Should you be afraid of conflict? Should you seek it out?
12. When have you found it wise to withdraw from a potential conflict for the sake of the Gospel?
13. Some in the Church today contend that Christians need to withdraw from cultural and political engagement. Would you assess this as strategic withdrawal from conflict or as spiritual surrender?
14. What might be some indications that it is time to contend for the faith instead of withdrawing?
15. What might be some signs that you need to gear up for spiritual battle in the present hour?
16. Recall some of the instances in the Gospels in which we witness Christ ministering fearlessly in the face of opposition.
17. Who might be the "bruised reeds" or "smoldering wicks" in our community? In our congregations? In our homes? In our schools?
18. What would defending the faith with fearlessness look like? Defending it with tenderness? Are these compatible? Why or why not?