

# Sermon Outline

## “The True Servant of God”

### Matthew 12:15-21

- I.** The withdrawal of Jesus vv. 15-16  
Following the Sabbath controversy, the Pharisees withdraw to plot; Jesus withdraws to heal. This is Matthew’s preparation for a long fulfillment quotation from Isaiah. The withdrawal is arranged in a chiasmus.
- A** Jesus not ready to push the conflict v. 15a
  - B** Ministry of healing the multitudes v. 15b
  - A<sup>1</sup>** The crowds forbidden to push the conflict v. 16

- II.** Jesus’ ministry is declared to be the fulfillment of prophecy Is 42:1-4
- a. Behold, God’s Servant! v. 18a  
“In whom my soul delights” Is 42:1; *see* Mt 3:17; 17:5
  - b. The Spirit-filled Servant v. 18b  
The Kingdom has come – *see* v. 28
  - c. Not seeking conflict, but serving God’s interests vv. 19-20  
Jesus “went about his business” while his enemies plotted (Ps 2)
  - d. The promised inclusion of the Gentiles v. 21 (*cf.* Mt 8:10-12)  
“islands” Is 42:4, 10, 12  
“Gentiles” Is 42:6

**III.** Implications for the church

Continuity of covenants – it was always God’s plan to include the whole world in His redemptive plan. We must not be narrow in our understanding and application of God’s mercies.

The Lord’s servant is not to be contentious – seeking conflict. Like Jesus, we must attend to our Father’s business. If conflict is to come, we trust in God to bring it at the appropriate time and to help us meet it appropriately. We are not to seek it out.