

What Good is a Broken Stick?

Matthew 12:15-21

“He will not crush the weakest reed or put out a flickering candle. Finally he will cause justice to be victorious. And his name will be the hope of all the world.”

Matthew 12:20,21 (NLT)

What comes to mind when you think of a servant?

In this passage we learn that when Jesus learned about the plans of the Pharisees to plot to kill him he “left that area.” Up to this point Matthew has given us ample evidence that Jesus is the Son of God and in that sense should not fear anything-even death.

So why do you think that Jesus left the area when he learned about the plot against him?

Using a prophecy from Isaiah 42 this passage tells us about the mission of Jesus (verses 20b & 21) and the method for accomplishing the mission (verses 19 & 20a). His method is one of compassion and serving even those who society may deem not worthy.

Can you think of some people who have gained influence and made a difference through serving?

Worth Quoting

“The difference manifests itself in the care taken by the servant-first to make sure that other people’s highest priority needs are being served. The best test, and difficult to administer, is: Do those served grow as persons? Do they, while being served, become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, more likely themselves to become servants? And, what is the effect on the least privileged in society? Will they benefit or at least not be further deprived?”

-Robert K. Greenleaf in an essay, *The Servant as Leader*, published in 1970.

Matthew 20:28 says that Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve. If that is true then how much more should his followers be servants?

Who is God calling you to serve right now? Who is he calling you to show His love to by serving their needs?