

A Study of the Christ

Text

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Man's hand healed on Sabbath	12:9-14	3:1-6	6:6-11	
Jesus withdraws to the sea	12:14-21	3:7		
Many follow Jesus to be healed	4:23-25	3:7-12		
Jesus prays on a mountain			6:12	
Jesus selects 12 disciples		3:13-19	6:13-16	
Jesus descends & heals multitude			6:17-19	
Jesus ascends to preach	5:1			

Overriding Principles

- God is in the people business.
- The rules God gives are to rescue us and give us abundant life, not to embitter and oppress.

Main Point

- A battered reed He will not break off, and a smoldering wick He will not put out, until He leads justice to victory (Matt. 12:20).

Secondary Points of History, Culture, Words, and Grammar

- Jesus challenges head-on the Sabbath traditions of the Jews by exposing the hypocrisy of the religious establishment. They valued sheep more than men (**Matt. 12:9-13**)!
- Rather than repent, men commonly shift the blame from themselves to others who are not to blame (**Matt. 12:14**).
- The Pharisees and the Herodians were normally enemies, they were brought together out of a common fear and hatred for the Christ (**Mk. 3:6**; cf. Mk. 12:13).
- Jesus' ministry was becoming extremely popular among the common people (**Matt. 4:25**; **Mk. 3:7-12**).

- The ministry of Jesus was one of gentle recovery for all who would come to Him with a willingness to be healed (**Matt. 12:17-21**; cf. Isa. 42:1-4; Matt. 11:28-30).
- The twelve men Jesus chose to be disciples were, to say the least, not exactly what would have been expected. They were largely common men rather than men of distinction, not to mention that a tax collector, a zealot, and several fishermen should never have worked (**Mk. 3:13-19; Lk. 6:12-16**; cf. I Sam. 16:7).
 - o Zealots were sworn to kill Roman soldiers—they were terrorists.
 - o Tax collectors were regarded as traitors, worse even than the Roman conquerors.
 - o Among the fishermen were two “sons of thunder”—men of explosive temperament (Lk. 9:54-56).
 - o And there was the very impetuous Simon.
 - o An amazing collection that nevertheless worked because they found in Jesus something far bigger than their petty differences.
 - o The leopard did lie down with the kid (Isa. 10:6-10; cf. Rom. 15:10).
- And there was also the traitor, Judas Iscariot (**Mk. 3:19**; cf. Lk. 22:3; Jn. 6:71; 13:2, 26; Matt. 26:14).

Relationship to the Church

- The work of the church is to rescue the perishing and bring them to maturity in Jesus (Col. 1:24-29; Eph. 4:15-16).
- Weakness is allowed, but not indifference, irresponsibility, or rebellion—men sometimes reverse this (II Thess. 3:10; I Thess. 5:14).
- We must care more for men than for possessions—Jesus didn’t die for things.
- We must find a way to patiently, yet uncompromisingly bring all brethren together in harmony (I Cor. 1:10; Jn. 17:21-23).
- The way is found in loving Jesus above everything else, most especially including self (II Cor. 5:14-15; Jn. 14:15, 23; Lk. 14:33-35).

Who is Jesus?

- He is the man who cut through self-centered traditions to stand up for God’s will.
- He is the One who will work with us, no matter how weak we are, as long as we will faithfully work with Him.

- He is the man who perfectly combines justice and mercy to bring salvation.