

# ISRAELS AT ODDS

*Matthew 12:15-21*

I. Israel *unjustly* conspired against their *just* Representative (v. 18).

II. Israel *mercilessly* conspired against their *merciful* Representative (vv. 19-21).

## QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. What kinds of questions are asked in ethics? Why is ethics such a vital part of one's worldview, and how does one's ethic often lead to opposition?
2. What text of Scripture does Matthew quote here? Who is God's servant in Isaiah? And how does this help us to understand what is happening between Jesus and the leaders of Israel?
3. How do the opening words of the servant song in v. 18 harken back to Jesus's baptism?
4. As Israel's representative, what has God's servant come to do? How does His ministry entail both justice and mercy?
5. Can you explain the two images Isaiah uses of a bruised reed and a smoldering wick? What is God saying here, and why is this an encouragement to us?
6. Why should we expect opposition if we order our thinking and living around the ethic of Christ? What are some ways we see such opposition toward Christians today?

## QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. How was the ethic of the Jewish religious leaders in Israel's day fundamentally no different from the ethic of the unbelieving Gentiles?
2. Do I take pleasure in God's messianic servant like God the Father does? Is His name my hope?
3. Am I a bruised reed or a smoldering wick? How does this imagery encourage me to run to Christ in my sin and weakness? How does it likewise encourage me to move toward people with mercy in their sin and weakness?