



Sowing the Word

**“A bruised
reed He will not
break, And
smoking flax He
will not quench,
Till He sends
forth justice to
victory.”**



Matthew 12:20
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Matthew 12-13 **November 11th-17th, 2010**

So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped *them* to understand the reading.

(Nehemiah 8:8)

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Helpful Study Resource:

Explore the Book by J. Sidlow Baxter

Online Help:

http://preceptaustin.org/matthew_commentaries.htm

Commentary:

The commentary used with permission throughout
this booklet is:

With the Word Bible Commentary

by Warren W. Wiersbe.

ISBN 0-8407-9108-9

Outline

I. The Revelation of the King (1–10)

- A. The person of the King (1–4)
 - 1. His ancestry (1:1–17)
 - 2. His arrival (1:18–2:23)
- B. The presentation of the King (3–4)
 - 1. His messenger & baptizer (3)
 - 2. His temptation and early ministry (4)
- C. The principles of the King (5–7)
- D. The power of the King (8–9)
- E. The people of a King sent out (10)

II. The Rebellion Against the King (11–13)

- A. His messenger rejected (11:1–19)
- B. His works denied (11:20–30)
- C. His principles refused (12:1–21)
- D. His person attacked (12:22–50)
- E. Result: the parables of the kingdom (13)

III. The Preparations of the King (14–20)

- A. Preparing for work (14)
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- C. Preparing for the Cross (16)
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- E. Preparing for problems (18)
- F. Preparing for relationships (19)
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IV. The Cross of the King (21–27)

- A. His public presentation to the Jews (21:1–16)
- B. His conflict with the religious leaders (21:17–23:39)
- C. His prophecies of the future kingdom (24–25)
- D. His suffering and death (26–27)

V. The Resurrection of the King (28)

VII. (Epilogue) The King's Assignment (28:16–20)

With the Word Bible Commentary

Matthew 12

Hostility (1–8). The religious leaders were waiting for an opportunity to attack Jesus, and He deliberately gave it to them. What a tragedy to be burdened by legalism when you could enjoy the true Sabbath rest (11:28–30)! When Jesus is your Lord, all of life becomes a Sabbath and every place is God’s temple, even a grain field.

Hypocrisy (9–14). The Pharisees were concerned about keeping the Sabbath but not about showing love to a man with a handicapping condition. Jesus wants mercy, not sacrifice (v. 7; Hos. 6:6; Mic. 6:6–8). Do you use people or serve them?

Victory (15–32). Jesus is the Stronger Man who has invaded Satan’s house, overcome him, taken his weapons, and is now claiming his spoils (Eph. 1:15–23; Col. 2:15). Put on the armor and join Him in victory (Eph. 6:10ff.).

Neutrality (43–50). Beware an empty life! It is a standing invitation for Satan to go to work. In the spiritual war being waged today, you cannot be neutral. You are either for Him or against Him.

The Unpardonable Sin: *The unpardonable sin is committed by people who resist the work of the Spirit and reject His witness concerning Jesus. It is a sin of the heart, not the lips, because what we say comes from the heart (Matt. 12:33–37). When the religious leaders allowed John the Baptist to be arrested and slain, they sinned against God the Father who sent him. When they crucified Christ, they sinned against God the Son. Jesus asked for their forgiveness (Luke 23:34), and God gave them another chance. When they persecuted the apostles and then killed Stephen, they sinned against the Holy Spirit who was working through them (Acts 7:51). That sin against the Spirit brought about the downfall of the nation. God can forgive all sins except the sin of rejecting His Son (John 3:36). God’s children cannot commit an unpardonable sin, for all of their sins were forgiven when they trusted Jesus Christ (John 3:18; Rom. 8:1; Col. 2:13).*

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). With the word Bible commentary (Mat 12:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

With the Word Bible Commentary

Matthew 13

These parables explain how God is at work in the world today. The kingdom of heaven is not the true church, for the kingdom of heaven contains both true and false, saved and lost. The kingdom of heaven is made up of all who profess any kind of allegiance to the King.

God is sowing His Word in human hearts and looking for fruit (vv. 1–9, 18–23). He is sowing His people in the world where they can produce a harvest (vv. 24–30, 36–43). At the end of the age, He will separate the true from the false and the good from the bad.

Is your profession of Christ authentic? Or will you be seen as a counterfeit at the end of the age? (See Matt. 7:21–29.)

Does your heart receive the Word? The seed has life and power and can produce a harvest of blessing in your life. Do you hear it?

Can God “plant you” where He wants you? You are a seed containing His divine life, but a seed must be planted to produce fruit (John 12:23–28).

Do you share with others what He teaches you (51–52)? Truth must not be hoarded; it must be shared so that others can be saved and built up in the faith.

Receive the Truth: The word parable comes from a Greek word that means “to throw alongside.” Jesus used the familiar to teach the unfamiliar (“things new and old” Matt. 13:52). He did that not to hide the truth but to arouse interest in the truth (Matt. 13:13–15). He wanted to get the people to open their eyes and ears and receive the truth into their sluggish hearts.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Mat 13:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

"A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench."

Matthew 12:20

Written By: *C H Spurgeon*

Taken From: *Morning and Evening*

What is weaker than the bruised reed or the smoking flax? A reed that groweth in the fen or marsh, let but the wild duck light upon it, and it snaps; let but the foot of man brush against it, and it is bruised and broken; every wind that flits across the river moves it to and fro. You can conceive of nothing more frail or brittle, or whose existence is more in jeopardy, than a bruised reed. Then look at the smoking flax-what is it? It has a spark within it, it is true, but it is almost smothered; an infant's breath might blow it out; nothing has a more precarious existence than its flame. Weak things are here described, yet Jesus says of them, "The smoking flax I will not quench; the bruised reed I will not break." Some of God's children are made strong to do mighty works for him; God has his Samsons here and there who can pull up Gaza's gates, and carry them to the top of the hill; he has a few mighties who are lion-like men, but the majority of his people are a timid, trembling race. They are like starlings, frightened at every passer by; a little fearful flock. If temptation comes, they are taken like birds in a snare; if trial threatens, they are ready to faint; their frail skiff is tossed up and down by every wave, they are drifted along like a sea bird on the crest of the billows-weak things, without strength, without wisdom, without foresight. Yet, weak as they are, and because they are so weak, they have this promise made specially to them. Herein is grace and graciousness! Herein is love and lovingkindness! How it opens to us the compassion of Jesus-so gentle, tender, considerate! We need never shrink back from his touch. We need never fear a harsh word from him; though he might well chide us for our weakness, he rebuketh not. Bruised reeds shall have no blows from him, and the smoking flax no damping frowns.