**WHEN WE ARE MISUNDERSTOOD AND MISJUDGED**

**(Matthew 12:15-21)**

 I have the suspicion that everybody in this room has been misunderstood and misjudged by someone else. Who misunderstood, who misjudged, who falsely accused you? Was it a parent, a teacher, a neighbor, a self-righteous church goer?

 Everyone here belongs to the company of the misunderstood and the misjudged. If you are a follower of Jesus, you need to hear and take to heart what Jesus said to His disciples. He said, “Because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you” (John 15:19).

 So, how are you and I to respond, how are we to react when the world misunderstands us, misjudges us, and even mistreats us? What are we to do? To learn the answer, we need to read what Matthew, quoting Isaiah, wrote of Jesus. Our text is Matthew 12:15-21.

 There are two things we need to do when we are misunderstood and misjudged.

1. **LET US LOOK TO JESUS BECAUSE HE IS OUR MODEL.**

 Whenever you need to know what to do, look to Jesus. He is our example, our pattern, our standard, our model. When Matthew quotes from Isaiah, the first word of the quotation is the word “behold.” Since we are going to imitate the one who captures our attention, we need to observe and watch Jesus closely.

 From our text, there are three things Jesus models for us:

1. *Make Sure You Are Opposed for the Right Reason.*
2. *Make Sure You Are Opposed by the Right People.*
3. *Make Sure You Respond in the Right Way.*

 When others make your life hard because you dare to follow Christ, act wisely, exercise caution, keep serving God, keep loving people, and don’t harbor resentment towards them. Don’t lash out at them. Do the things Jesus did. He is our model.

1. **LET US LEAN ON JESUS BECAUSE HE IS OUR REFUGE.**

 Consider the imagery found in v. 20. God is not going throw you away or trade you in for a new model. He is going to repair you and make you usable for His glory. He won’t give up on you, so don’t you give up on Him.

 Lean on Jesus. Let Him be your refuge. Why should you do that?

1. *He Cares for You.*
2. *He’s the Victor.*

 If you want to be on the winning team, join God’s team. I’ve read the end of this book. I know how this all ends. Jesus wins; so, trust Him. Commit your heart and life to Him. Entrust yourself to Him. Let Him be your model and refuge.