

“He will not crush the weakest reed or put out a flickering candle. Finally he will cause justice to be victorious.” Matthew 12:20 NLT

lectio // Matthew 12:15-21

Oh, the beauty in this simple thought that Matthew writes as Jesus is going about healing all who are sick. Out there in the throngs of people are bruised reeds or little flames that are barely flickering. A picture of hope that is waning, barely holding on. Quoting Isaiah as Jesus fulfilling this very promise, Isaiah adds, “He will not falter or lose heart until justice prevails throughout the earth. Even distant lands beyond the sea will wait for his instruction.” Isaiah 42:4 NLT. Jesus has accomplished this, he will accomplish this. It reminds me of the power of the Word of God that finishes the work intended in us. Later Isaiah writes in 55:11, “so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.” Jesus is that word! The Word was with God and the Word was God. This is a powerful promise of hope to all who are hanging by a thread, feeling like they just can’t extend hope any further. Their reed, their light is WEAK. Yet this is where the strength of God’s promises through Jesus reach out to bind the bruised, fan the flicker left inside our souls. He opposes the arrogant but draws near to the weak! If my life is and hope is fading and I just can’t see how anything could get worse or better - I must grab onto this promise of hope and hold on.

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Dad,
I am not currently feeling bruised or flickered in my faith, but I know a lot of folks who are struggling to get on with life after the pandemic. They’ve made it, they are NOT dead. There has been LOSS and CHANGE, but now they face an unknown future and they are tired. They are holding on but they are bruised and flickering. Father, fill these friends with this promise of hope, come close to them and pour out your peace. Holy Spirit walk slowly beside them and whisper comfort and joy into their souls. Thank you!

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root