

“The Lord of Rest” Sermon Discussion Questions
Matthew 12:15-21 – May 14, 2023

1. Despite appearances, Jesus is the one to get it done

- Verse 18 describes the promised Servant as chosen, beloved, well pleasing. In what ways did Jesus demonstrate confidence in the fact that he was chosen, beloved and well pleasing to his Father?
- How confident are you that in Christ YOU are chosen, beloved, well pleasing to the Father? Why? How might we grow in this confidence?
- Matthew makes the connection that Jesus is the promised Servant from Isaiah 42. Read Isaiah 41.21-29 for context—Isaiah highlights the powerlessness of idols to contrast with the power of the Servant (Jesus) to accomplish God’s promises of redemption and justice. Contrast some of the “idols” we look to for help and hope with Jesus—how are these idols ultimately powerless?
- How do you tend to define or think of “justice”? Chuck defined biblical justice as “society or the world the way God meant for it to be, or the way God designed it”. What do you think of that definition? What are some ways you see Jesus proclaiming or accomplishing justice according to this definition?
- Chuck quoted someone (can’t remember who!) who said “The more we try to force heaven on earth, we bring up hell from below.” What’s your reaction—do you agree? Why or why not?

2. Jesus is going to get it done in a very different way

- Verses 19-21 describe how Jesus accomplishes his mission—what stands out to you? Why?
- How does his way of carrying out his mission contrast with how we tend to carry out plans or agendas?
- How might we operate the same way Jesus does? How would we need to change?
- Who are some people in your circles that are not in relationship with God or his people (that’s essentially what “Gentile” means)? How might we help them hope in Jesus’ name? Or, how might joining Jesus in working to restore our world, our communities, homes, workplaces, to God’s original design, actually stir up faith among our other-than-Christian friends, coworkers and neighbors?