

Saturday of the 15th Week in Ordinary Time
July 21, 2012 8:30am

In today's gospel, Saint Matthew uses some words of the prophet Isaiah to tell us something about the kind of person Jesus is.

Isaiah speaks of this servant of God who will come, and first he says:
"He will not contend or cry out, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets."

The word that we translate as "*cry out*" means shouting at or shouting down another person.

It connotes engaging in a public fight.

The idea here is that Jesus will not do this.

Instead of being loud and argumentative, Jesus is calm, deliberate, living out of a center within himself where he is at peace, one with the Father.

He brings his message in a way that is clear and firm, but in a way that is above all calm, peaceful, and respectful.

Isaiah also says of this servant of God:

"A bruised reed he will not break, a smoldering wick he will not quench."

A reed may be somewhat soft, not so firm, and hardly able to stand up straight.

A wick may be weak and the light it gives may just be a flicker.

The idea is that Jesus will not treat the weak with contempt, but with understanding.

He will not discourage, but encourage.

He will not out us down for our weakness, but rather draw out of us our strength.

Sometimes today the expression that we have to stand up for what we think and believe is used in an unfortunate way.

Sometimes it is used to mean that we have to be in the face of others, loud, forceful, and focused only on what we are saying and not on the other person and where they may be coming from.

The way of Jesus that is portrayed in this passage may lead us to consider that there is another way to be faithful to the Lord and to bring the way of Jesus to our world.