

Week One of Sermon Series – “Let the Healing Begin”

Topic: “Can God Use Broken People?”

Text: Exodus 3:1-10

Premise: “Your break through comes after your break down!”

Introduction: It is with a broken and contrite heart that I have gone to God about standing before you today. I hope you are as ready for me as I am for you! I broke... Though I have always known that I am not much, I always knew that my fall would hurt many. So where to we go from here? Let’s let the healing begin!

The *Definition* of Brokenness: The resulting *intellectual, emotional, spiritual* and *physical* state in which a man or a woman finds himself or herself when they realize they are *not where they ought be*.

Each of us has suffered some form of brokenness... (*Elaborate and illustrate*)
Regardless our brokenness, God can still use broken people!

The Bible is full of broke people used by God; broke people in surprising places!

- Moses, the writer of the first 5 books of the bible was broken when he committed murder.
- Noah, the man God used to replenish the earth, had a drinking problem
- Abraham, the father of many nations, tried to give God help with fatherhood
- Isaac, the son of promise, gave his blessings to the wrong son
- David, the boy-king of Israel, was an adultery and a murderer
- Jacob, the twin of Esau, was a liar and a coward
- Rebecca, their mother, was a conspirator
- Tamar, the Lord’s great great Grandmother, was an incestuous trickster
- Rahab, named in the lineage of Jesus, was what I call a holy hooker
- Elijah, Gods mouthpiece, was suicidal
- Joseph, the dreamer, was convict with a jacked-up family
- Jonah, the preacher of great promise, had an attitude problem
- Isaiah, the most major of all the prophets, preached out of his clothes
- Naomi, the woman of much influence, had a control problem
- Job, the perfect and upright man, had an anger problem
- Peter, the impulsive one, lived in state of denial
- Martha, Lazarus sister, nagged and worried about everything

- Zacchaeus, the chief tax collector, had a size problem
- The Samaritan woman, who Jesus met at the well, had relationship problems

The only person in the Bible who had no brokenness in and of themselves was Jesus the Christ; and He was wounded for our transgressions; bruised for our iniquities!

Many others are listed in this great salvific book. In the coming weeks we are going to examine some of their lives and see how it is God used broken people.

It is my most earnest belief, that God can use broken people. Our brokenness can work for us or against us; our brokenness can make us better or just bitter.

Brokenness happened to the first perfect people in the Bible!

1. The ***Danger*** of brokenness: The danger lies in acting like it can't happen to you!
Vs 1
 - That which can break you is already in your garden! Vs 1ab
 - That which can break you knows how to get your attention! Vs 1cd
 - That which can break you may be "in" you!

Just in case you think it can't happen to you read Galatians 6:1

*"Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself **lest you also be tempted.**"*

2. The ***Denial*** of brokenness: The denial comes in telling your self you haven't been or can not be broken. Vs 2
 - She ***responded*** to the serpent's question! Vs 2a
 - She ***repeated*** what the serpent said (Leaving "LORD" out!) Vs 3b-e
 - She ***reacted*** to what the serpent said! (She continued the dialogue!) Vs 4-5

Peter didn't think it could happen to him but Matthew 26:75 says, *Suddenly, Jesus' words flashed through Peter's mind: "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went away, crying bitterly.*

3. The ***Distortion*** of brokenness: The distortion of brokenness causes us to see things the way we want them to be instead of the way they are! Vs 6-8
 - ***Intellectual*** distortion! (she saw life where there was death; pleasure instead of pain, intelligence instead of ignorance) Vs 6, 7

- **Emotional** distortion! Vs 10
- **Physical** distortion! Vs 8
- **Spiritual** distortion! Vs 9

Jesus said in John 10:10, **“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.**

Conclusion: The ***Deliverance*** of brokenness: I have learned that a break down is a prelude to a break through!

I didn't think it be until it happened to me!

No Pain... no gain! What is true in the physical is true in the spiritual. Suffering is a natural part of spiritual growth.

Acts 14:21-22 And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, [22] strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."

Philip. 1:29 - For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake.