



We Are All Broken

2 Corinthians 4:7-9

Message Notes, January 22, 2017

“We have this treasure [of the redeeming grace of God] in jars of clay ...” We are earthen, we are fragile, we are all broken. God knows this, and we all know this, though many of us ignore or hide this truth. God has wholeness for us – “Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, self control – the fruit of His Spirit at work in us. But this wholeness begins with acknowledging our brokenness, bringing it into the light, bringing it to Him.

God is calling us to a life of awakening! How does our spiritual enemy use our brokenness to keep us in slumber?

For the next 12 weeks, Keith will be preaching a series on “Growing in Wholeness:”

- Growing – this pursuit of wholeness is not a destination but a life-long journey. There certainly will be strides and breakthroughs along the way, but God is continually revealing, healing and restoring.
- Wholeness – not perfection but healing, restoration and freedom.

The biblical story is a story of brokenness (and grace/redemption). Every hero of the scriptures had weaknesses, flaws, even failures: Abraham lied, Moses got angry, David committed adultery and murder, Peter denied, Thomas doubted ... It has always been God’s way to use weak, broken people to reveal His glory and grace.

Brokenness was not the beginning of our story. In Genesis, “God saw all that He had made and it was good,” and Adam and Eve had perfect relationship with God – they were “naked and unashamed.” They were vulnerable and transparent with nothing to fear and nothing to hide. No pain, no rejection, no failures.

God’s glorious risk was to create us with a free will, and the “one tree” was planted to give meaning to this freedom. Adam and Eve chose badly and sin entered – creation was corrupted, humanity fell and now we are broken.

- From Genesis 3:7-10, what were some immediate impacts of this fall and signs of our brokenness?
- How does Isaiah 61:1-3 capture God’s response to our brokenness, our hope for wholeness?
- How did Jesus relate himself to the above passage? See Luke 4:16-21.
- How do you hear our hope for wholeness in 2 Corinthians 4:7-9?

Symptoms of our brokenness

Symptoms are not the disease itself or even the cause of the disease; they are simply the indicators that something deeper is wrong.

- Stress, driven-ness, obsessions
- Restraint, fear of failure, feelings of inadequacy
- Bitterness, resentment, cynicism
- Guilt, regret, shame



- Fears, anxieties
- Numb to life, little joy, rare laughter
- Overly sensitive, defensive, irritable, angry
- Conflictual relationships, fear of intimacy, fear of being truly known, isolation, loneliness

Sources of our brokenness

- My own sinful choices/actions
- Others' sinful choices/actions (that wound me)
- This fallen world (yes, there is still goodness and beauty, but *all* creation has been damaged by sin)
- Our spiritual enemy who deceives and lures us into slumber and destruction

What we often do with our brokenness (unhealthy responses)

- Deny it
- Hide it (we are so desperately insecure, so we hide our weaknesses and flaws)
- Isolate/withdraw
- Pose (put on masks, pretend)
- Perform – and we try to work out of our brokenness by pursuing perfection. This may seem to work for us outwardly, but inside we are still broken and this brokenness eats away at our soul. Our outward perfection will eventually crumble.

What we need to do with our brokenness – take it to God!

- **Own it / confess it.** “God, I will embrace what you already see about me.” How does the Psalmist express “owning it” in his soulful prayer? See Psalm 32:5-7.
- **Embrace it.** Not giving in and giving up, settling into our brokenness, but accepting it as part of our story and admitting we need help and healing.
- **Submit it.** Both the above are done to God and before God. At its core, growing in wholeness is a journey of surrender and trust. How does Paul’s testimony in 2 Corinthians 12:7-8 model “embracing” and “submitting” our weakness?
- **Receive His provision.** A receiving that will surely involve participation on our part and being engaged with others we trust. More on this as the series unfolds.

Reflection Questions

- Is there anything in this message that was unclear to you?
- What one thing has most stirred your heart from this message?
- Which of the following is easiest for you to say? Which is hardest? Why is this?
 - We are all broken.
 - I am broken.
 - I am not perfect.
- What makes it hard for you to share your brokenness with others (a trusted friend or a safe group)?
- Which of the dimensions of “taking your brokenness to God” is the most challenging to you? Why?



- Is the Lord tapping on your heart about a specific point of brokenness? Do you need/want to share this in your community group and let them pray for you? Such sharing is part of God's healing path for our brokenness.