

Yet God sent His Son, Who was without sin, to be broken so that we might be healed. On the night before He died, Jesus broke the bread and said, "This is My Body, which is broken for you." He went all the way to Calvary to die so that we can live.

His death has made it possible for broken, sinful humanity to be reconciled to God and be healed. Without the broken body of Jesus, we could not be made whole. "But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5) Those who belong to Christ and are enduring heartbreak must know that God loves them and that His love is unconditional. Imagine the grief God the Father endured as He witnessed the crucifixion of His Son on the cross. What amazing love! That same God is there to comfort the brokenhearted and restore the joy of their salvation.

"And Our Deepest Need Is To Be Reconciled To God And To One Another"

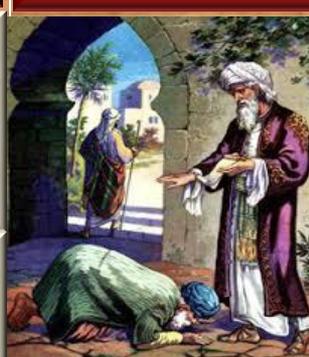
God draws us, He calls to us. He longs for us to come to Him so He can heal us. The solution can never come from our own efforts or striving, but comes only from Him. Only when we recognize our need for God are we able to take our eyes off ourselves and focus them on God and Jesus Christ. Only when we stop thinking about our own pain and start thinking about what Jesus did for us can we begin to heal. Only when we admit our need and ask God into our life, can God begin to make us whole. Only when we confess that we are broken and we choose to forgive can God make us into what He wants us to be. Once we let go of self and place God at the center of our lives, everything else falls into place.

"Broken and Poured Out"



During the final week of Jesus' life, He was eating a meal, and "a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head" (Mark 14:3). The woman's action of breaking the alabaster jar was symbolic of a couple of things: Jesus would soon be "broken" on the cross, and all who follow Him must be willing to be "broken" as well. But the result of such costly brokenness is beautiful, indeed.

When we forgive through our follow Him must be willing to be "broken" as well. But the result of such costly brokenness is beautiful, indeed. When we forgive through our brokenness, Jesus will heal our hearts and our relationships. We are called to love God and love one another at all costs. We must learn to forgive quickly so Jesus can pour His Healing Oil over us. This is the abundant life!



The Bible has quite a bit to say about forgiveness and unforgiveness. Perhaps the most well-known teaching on unforgiveness is Jesus' parable of the unmerciful servant, recorded in Matthew 18:21-35. In the parable, a king forgives an enormously large debt (basically one that could never be repaid) of one of his servants. Later, however, that same servant refuses to forgive the small debt of another man. The king hears about this and rescinds his prior forgiveness. Jesus concludes by saying, "This is how My heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart." (Matthew 18:35). Since Jesus has forgiven us of our great debt of sin then how can we be right with God by not forgiving others who has sinned against us? Other passages tell us that we will be forgiven as we forgive. Here are some Words from our Lord Jesus about forgiveness. Matthew 6:14; "For if you



forgive others their trespasses, Your heavenly Father will also forgive you." Matthew 7:2; "For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get." and Luke 6:37, "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven."

"God Proved His Love"

In the parable, we are appalled at the servant who would not forgive a minor debt after having been forgiven his unpayable debt. Yet, when we are unforgiving, we act just as the servant in the parable. Forgiveness and salvation are founded completely in the person of God and by Jesus' redeeming work on the cross. However, our actions demonstrate our faith and the extent to which we understand God's grace and forgiveness. (Luke 7:47) "Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." We are completely unworthy, yet Jesus chose to pay the price for our sins and to give us forgiveness (Romans 5:8) "But God proves His love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us." Any sin committed against us, no matter how terrible, is trivial in comparison to our sins against God. If God has forgiven us of so much, how could we refuse to forgive others of so "little"? We cannot possibly walk with God in true fellowship if we refuse to forgive others. When we truly grasp the greatness of God's gift to us, we will pass the gift along. We have been given grace and forgiveness and should give grace to others in return.

"Unforgiveness Also Robs Us"

Unforgiveness also robs us of the full life God intends for us. Rather than promote justice, our unforgiveness festers into bitterness. Bitterness starts out small. An offense burrows its way into our hearts. We replay it in our minds, creating deep ruts that will be hard to build back up. We retell our hurts to any available listener, including each sordid detail. We enlist support, pushing us further into our resentment. We hear the offending person's name and cringe. We decipher the offense as intentional and our offender as full of spite. We look for other reasons, both real or imagined, to dislike our offender. With each new piece of information, we form another layer of bitterness. Resentments robs our joy and the Word of God speaks to us in Nehemiah 8:10 **"The joy of the LORD is your strength."**

"Guard Your Heart"



Proverbs 4:23–26 instructs believers to, **"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and**

be steadfast in all your ways." Solomon refers to guarding the heart, he really means the inner core of a person, the thoughts, feelings, desires, will, and choices that make that person who he/she is. The Bible tells us that our thoughts often dictate who we become (Proverbs 27:19) **"Just as water reflects the face, so one human heart reflects another."** The mind of a man reflects who he really is, not simply his actions or words. That is why God examines the heart of a man, not simply his outward appearance and what he appears to be (1 Samuel 16:7) **"But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."** A heart submitted to Christ in prayer is protected by Christ with peace. **"And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"** (Philippians 4:7). The apostle Paul instructs us, **"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things"** (Philippians 4:8). Dwelling on these things will help to build a guard fence around our hearts.

"The Broken Hearted"



Christ did not die for an idea. He died for a person, and that person is you. But there again, we have been led astray. Ask any number of people why Christ came, and you'll receive any number of answers, but rarely the real one. **"He came to bring world peace."** **"He came to teach us the way of love."** **"He came to die so that we might go to heaven."** **"He came to bring economic justice."** On

and on it goes, much of it based in a partial truth. But wouldn't it be better to let Him speak for Himself? Jesus steps into the scene. He reaches back to a four-hundred-year-old prophecy to tell us why he's come. He quotes from Isaiah 61:1, which goes like this:

"The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners." The Hebrew word for **"broken"** in Isaiah 61:1 is shavar, meaning **"to burst, break into pieces, wreck, crush, smash; to rend, tear in pieces."** Have those words ever described your heart? Has your heart felt as if it was broken into tiny pieces?

The solution can never come from our own efforts or striving, but comes only from Him. Only when we recognize our need for God are we able to take our eyes off ourselves and focus them on God and Jesus Christ. Only when we stop thinking about ourselves and start thinking about what Jesus did for us can we begin to heal. Only when we admit our need and ask God into our life, can God begin to make us whole. Only when we confess that we are broken can God make us into what He wants us to be. Once we let go of self and place God at the center of our lives, everything else falls into place (Matthew 6:33) **"But strive first for the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."**

Christ could have chosen any one of a thousand other passages to explain his life purpose. But he did not. He chose this one; this is the heart of His mission. Everything else He says and does finds its place under this banner: **"I Am here to give you back your heart and set you free."** That is why the glory of God is man fully alive: it's what He said He came to do.

"To Us, Broken Things Are Despised As Worthless"

To us, broken things are despised as worthless, but God can take what has been broken and remake it into something better, something that He can use for His glory. Broken things and broken people are the result of sin.