**Brokenness**

There was a point in my life where I thought I was a Christian because I was raised in a “Christian” home where we prayed before going to bed and eating dinner and went to a church on Sunday. I knew all the bible stories and thought I knew all there was to know about God and didn’t need some Church telling me how to live my life.

I am sorry to say that at that time in my life I though church was for losers. I remember one Sunday my brother invited me to church and I agreed to go. When I got there, I looked around and thought to myself “everyone here looks like a loser.” It took me many years to realize that I was mostly right. unfortunately, it is usually only the losers that realize how much they need Christ and I have come to realize that I am one of them.

The Church does not attract those people who think they know it all or have it all together or those people who want the world to revolve around them. Not that they don’t need Christ, they just don’t know that they need Christ and they can’t hear Him calling them over their own pride. There is no room for Christ or his church in their lives.

The Church is there to bring Christ to the sad, the lost, the lonely, the week, the sinners looking for spiritual healing & salvation.

# Jesus says in Luke 19:10that the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

**The Church is there for those people willing to lose everything to find Christ**.

What do you think about that?

Jesus describes the type of people he calls to him in His Sermon on the Mount where he said

* Blessed are the **poor** in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
* Blessed are they, who **mourn**, for they shall be comforted.
* Blessed are the **meek**, for they shall inherit the earth.

The people Christ is describing do not have it all together they are meek, they are poor in spirit, they are sad and they are broken.

Many people think they need to wait till they can clean up all the bad things in their life before they come to Christ and to his church. This is a lie the enemy gives us. Don’t miss the simplicity of Christ calling. Come to him now, just as you are, and his Holy Spirit will convict you one thing at a time and give you the ability to change all those bad things in your life.

**🡪Today I am going to talk about brokenness.**

The best to see **brokenness** is by looking at the women who touched Christ robe in order to be healed (found in Luke 8:43-48). This woman had faced 12 years of misery, loneliness and shame. She was labeled as unclean by all those around her. People around her would have stayed clear for fear of being labeled unclean themselves.

She must have been desperate for what Christ had to offer. She came to Jesus a broken desperate woman who’s only desired was to touch the hem of His robe seeking His healing and redemption. We can feel her brokenness when she came trembling, and falling down before Jesus and declared, in the presence of all the people, how badly she needed Him.

To **understand Brokenness,** we can look at the process of taming a wild horse. The horse wants to be free to do what he wants, when he wants, but then a Cowboy comes along and rides the horse till it submits to him. The horse will do everything to resist but day after day of trials and resistance the horse will finally submit to the will of the Cowboy

Brokenness is not something that this world teaches you. You are supposed to be strong, "live for the moment", "be all you can be", YOLO (you only live once), "reach for the stars". "Do it for yourself - you deserve it", Just do it. Everyone wants to be the Rock star, Movie star or the all-star. Most people do not desire or strive for brokenness. It is not who we are or where we want to be in life.

As Christians we are called by Christ to be broken in His sight, to put **all** our trust in Him, to deny ourselves and all the pleasures of this world and submit to His will - Completely.

* Psalm 51:17 The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God..
* Psalm 126:5 “Those who sow in tears shall reap with joyful shouting.
* James 4:6"God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble"

Mark Buchanan wrote in his book “*Your God is Too Safe*”

 “Brokenness molds our character closer to the character of God than anything else. To experience defeat, disappointment, loss—the raw ingredients of brokenness—moves us closer to being like God than victory and gain and fulfillment ever can."

**Brokenness is the absolute surrender of my will to the will of God**

So, what does Brokenness look like? Let’s look at the characteristics the world teaches compared to brokenness

The world Teaches God Teaches

* Pride/Arrogance Humility / Humbleness
* Selfishness/Egotism Sharing / Putting others first
* Rudeness Patience / Kindness
* Controlling / Self-Serving Serving others and Serving God
* Self-Righteousness Needing Christ Righteousness
* Rebellion Submission / Surrender
* Fear / Disappointment Faith / hope
* Bitterness/Resentfulness Forgiveness
* Anger/Rage Peace & Reconciliation
* Hate Love
* Embarrassed about God Boldly confessing God

Looking over this list should remind you of the fruit of the spirit given to us in Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

So how do we **test for brokenness**: Do you ever think you are better than those around you? Do you think you are smarter than everyone else? Are you too proud to ask for help? Do you think you have all the answers? How often do you say “I can” compared to the times you say “GOD can?”

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 1:26-27 - Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

Brokenness is achieved when we realize that everything we have ever done or tried to do without Christ is worthless and brings nothing but sorrow, pain and regret. And everything we have ever tried to do for God we have failed at because we realize we have nothing to offer that is not already His and the more we try to do what is right and good the more we fail.

 “All this trying leads up to the vital moment at which you turn to God and say, “You must do this (Lord), I can’t.”” (C.S. - Mere Christianity)

It is at this moment that we want nothing more than to let God into our lives and His will to be done. Giving up all that we want for all that He wants in our lives!

Brokenness is not something that comes naturally. We as humans like to be in control. We want to be leaders not followers. We want to be proud of our actions to show people we are better than they are. Isn’t every sport a contest to see who is better?

Very few people start out in life wanting to be a servant. It usually takes some tragedy or suffering from the world to get us to accept God’s authority in our live. Many people will come to accept Christ in their deepest darkest moment because that is where God needs to take them so they can see how much they need Him and He does this out of love.

You hear all the time about people coming to Christ through some great tragedy like losing their home in a storm or their family in a fire. Or you hear about them coming to Christ when they have lost all hope. Like when they lose their Job or all that they own. Some wait till they are laying on their death bed. It is these people who have come to the end of their rope, with nothing else to lose or gain. Then in their despair and brokenness Christ reaches out to them and blesses them. It is because there is no longer anything to stand between them and our blessed Lord. It is because the world has forsaken them that they can now see Christ clearly.

2 Corinthians 4:8-10 "We are pressed but not crushed, persecuted not abandoned, struck down but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in us."

We see many of the men in the bible had to suffer greatly before being greatly blessed. They were broken before they received the blessings of God

* Job lost everything, his family, wealth, friends and health, But he held fast to the promise of God and the bible tells us

“The lord blessed Job at the end of his life more than at the beginning” (Job 42:12)

* David was hiding in a cave in fear for his life before he became king where he wrote

Psalm 42:5 -“Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him….

* Jonah was thrown off a ship and swallowed by a Fish when he finally cried out

Jonah 2:9 - "But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving;

He could not see God clearly until he was broken in that fish

* Joseph was sold into slavery and thrown into prison for many years before he became the ruler of Egypt
* Nebuchadnezzar, because of his pride, had lost his mind and his kingdom and lived as a wild animal in the wilderness for seven years. However, when he humbled himself and praise God the bible tells us

Daniel 4:34 - "…. I lifted up my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honored him that lives forever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation

So the question is: Why do we usually wait for something devastating or some tragedy in our lives before we turn to God?

Gary Rosberg writes

“The catalysts for brokenness doesn’t have to be huge, tragic or devastating, though sometimes they are. Suffering comes in all sizes and shapes every day of our lives. And when it comes, we often bury the pain of it somewhere deep inside us where it simmers and stews ... and gnaws away at our peace, faith and health, turning our hearts even stonier, compounding our pride and unbrokenness layer by layer.”

How often do we let the clutter of this world blur our vision where we cannot see Christ clearly? How often do we put something before God?

**Me 🡪 Giant Bolder 🡪 Christ**

So often while praying I get off track thinking about all the problems the world throws at me. Money, Family, Work, health...

So many times, we lose our focus on Christ thinking we can do it all on our own. Our pride will keep us from asking for help. We want to think we can do it all so we will wait and wait until we reach that point where we realize that we cannot handle it any more… until we finally breakdown, after missing all the blessing our Lord had for us and missing that personal relationship with Christ, Then we finally become so broken that we call out to Christ asking for his grace and mercy to step in.

Proverbs 3: 5 - Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Brokenness will take you from that point where you refuse to listen to one more person talking about how Christ saved them or from where your finger can’t move fast enough to get that preacher off your TV or that Christian song off your radio **to** the point where you desire nothing more than to hear Gods voice in your life.

So, I am calling you and myself to a continual Brokenness. We don't have to wait till we are lost, or down in the trenches to achieve brokenness. It is just usually in those times that our minds become still enough to hear God’s small voice. We can achieve brokenness every time we come before Christ by laying everything down at the feet of Jesus.

You are not alone in your brokenness because Christ himself came to this earth to be forsaken by God and the World. He became broken as an example for us. We see this in Isaiah:

Isaiah 53:3-5 He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Surely, he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Christ suffered the brokenness of the Cross so we would not have to.

Looking back to that woman who reached out to touch Christ robe - How many times have you desire nothing more in life than to reach out and touch Christ? How many times do you approach the lord with a heart so broken that nothing in this world will stand between you and your savior? Not pride, not self-Image, not work, not exhaustion or sleep.

God tells us in Jeremiah 29:13: You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.

Wherever you are at in life today, seek Jesus and when you find Him, approach Him with a broken heart. Tell Him you love Him. Ask Him for forgiveness and request his presence in your life.

**Everything that keeps you from coming to Christ is what you have to give up to achieve the brokenness required to accept him.**

Paul writes in 2 Corinthian 10:5 - casting down everything that exalts itself against the father and capture every thought and make it obedient to Christ

**In Closing: Are you willing to come before Christ with a broken heart?**

The amazing part is when we approach Christ with a Broken spirit, He doesn’t stand their Judging you like the world. He will meet you with grace every time. He receives you with open arms. Look at what Jesus said to the woman in our story.

Luke 8:48: Then he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.”

**Jesus brings healing out of brokenness.**

Notice Jesus identifies her as His “Daughter”. The same is true for us when we place ourselves under Christ, he calls us sons and daughters

John 1:12 But to all who receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

This woman suffered 12 years of brokenness before she was able to come before the savior. The good thing is You don’t have to wait 12 years to come, you can do it right now.

Let me ask you: How many times have you been standing before God and called to raise your hands, kneel in prayer, speak his name or go to the alter to receive his blessing but due to pride, embarrassment or whatever it is, you have remained silent and still. Sure, your heart has wanted to go and bow before your Lord but you look around to see if anyone else is going because you do not want to draw attention. You do not want to look weak or not in control.

 **I am here to tell you I am the biggest offender of this. 20 years (or so) ago, as a young man, I was at a Church and listened to a similar sermon when God called me to go the Alter. Oh, my heart wanted to go and bow before the feet of my Lord and savior Jesus but I just couldn’t get my feet to agree. I don’t know if it was pride or embarrassment but I walked out that day feeling defeated.**

There have been many alter calls since then and I still have never went. I know deep down that the feeling inside is Christ calling me to kneel before him but to do so I have to approach Him with humility, humbleness…Brokenness. I have to leave my selfish pride in the pew and walk before the Lord without a care of what others think. I have to give my heart to Christ. I have to place my crown at the feet of Jesus! And say your will not mine O Lord!

 I am not going to make that mistake again. So, I kneel before you today a broken man and asking for Christ forgiveness

What decision are you going to make today?