

Part 2

“BREAK ME”

Burst Your Bubble

Status Quo

Broken And released

Breaking Bread

Jack- in – the Box

Breaking Bad

Bound by Brokenness

Blessed by Brokenness

“Break Me”

1Corinthians 11:24 And when Jesus had given thanks, he broke the bread and said, “This is my body”

Jabez is mentioned three times in the Bible, his name means “he causes pain” (1Chronicles 4:19) His mother gave him that name because of the pain he caused at birth. Maybe that why Jabez prayed his prayer to God, “Oh that you would bless me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from my pain” (v10) We are told that God granted his request. This is the type of prayer that we all would want to bless me, give me more of what I want, protect me, keep me away from what I do not want. This prayer although scriptural and useful focuses on only what we want and not necessarily what God wants for us. Who wants hardship or struggle, sounds like the perfect prayer? It basically says, God do not allow me to grow or get stronger and keep me from pain.

Although trials are hard to endure, they are God’s way of drawing us closer to Him. James the half brother of Jesus was bold enough to tell us to be thankful for the trials that God uses to perfect us. “Consider it joy my brethren” (James 1:24) If we pray only for protection from trials, then we rob ourselves of future maturity, we will miss the perseverance that our trials produce.

Lord protect me from harm sounds good to say, but it is the challenges in life that help us to mature and learn godly principles. “Brokenness brings blessings”

Have you ever noticed how we make plans for our life without praying and asking God first, we exclude His plans for our plans? Well, sometimes God is a “Bubble Burster” As teenager we

would do that to our parents, we would make plans for months ahead, only to be told “NO” by our moms the day of. Her words would be “who told you, you could go?” That is exactly what we do to God assuming that it is okay. We even go as far as to plan our future not just a special event. The Lord interrupts our plans because He has thoughts and plans for us... (Jeremiah 29:12)

He may even use those plans to break us, to remind us that His plans are far better.

A.W.Tozer once said, “It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply.” I am reminded of the scripture that talked about the vessel that was made of clay was “marred”, so he made it again. (Jeremiah 18:4) We are so quick that we are clay, and He is “The Potter” so, who can say to the Potter...? When we can fully grasp that we are in The Master’s Hands what a blessing that would be, brokenness brings blessings. To be wholly useful to God we must empty ourselves and the breaking must come from Him.

Our pride of self-confidence and awareness of things that are not Christ pleasing, and hinders my spiritual walk. must be broken. Get away from the “Status Quo” what are we loosing by clinging to our comfort zones? Jabez has self- centered by saying Lord, keep me warm and cozy, keep things the way I like them I have people to impress. What are we missing out on just to avoid pain and discomfort just to look good to others? Could becoming broken release us from more than we can imagine?

Well, I am here to tell you, yes it can, brokenness brings spiritual release. I get it, who really wants to say to a Holy God break me and when you are done Lord, release me, no one does? We do not realize the blessing that lie on the other side of God’s breaking. Mark 14: give a great example of Christ dealing with an unwanted visitor, crashing a dinner party. The visitor was a prostitute, and we know that a woman of this type is never viewed in good taste, never was it in the days of the Lord. She was not welcomed around town and definitely not at a dinner party. But because Jesus showed her unconditional love she became “broken” She noticed that He was different, no other man had ever treated her with such respect. He honored her, when others heaped shame, He treated her with dignity. He extended to her grace and mercy as He does to every repentant sinner. She left Jesus’ presence “Broken and Released”

This woman wanted to do something to show her gratitude, knowing that Jesus and his disciples were at home of “Simon the Leper” she went to deliver her thanks to her “Redeemer.” She bought her most expensive jar of exotic perfume, in an act of unbridled worship and devotion “she broke the jar and poured the perfume on His head” (Mark 14:3) she broke the bottle and gave it all. Remember this woman was a prostitute, one year of work was in that bottle, “one year of sin.” How many horrible encounters did she have within that year? How many men used and despised her? Ye she broke the bottle and worshipped Jesus.

This sudden gift shocked some people in the room, stunned they barked indignantly to one another. “why this waste of perfume, it could have been sold for more than a years’ worth of wages?” And rebuked her harshly (Mark 14:4-5) May you and I would have responded the same way it seemed so wasteful. At the time perfume was so rare that everyday women never thought of buying or wearing it. It simply was not feasible, it cost too much. It was believed that women that wore perfume used it as advertisement, it was sending a bold and fragrant message that “I’m available, for a price.” So, when the woman opened the bottle and poured it out she was not just parting with the money she had earned, she was parting with her past profession and her livelihood.

The perfume not only represent the work she once did, it also represented what she could use to stir up “business.” When she broke the bottle, she buried her bridges, no more going back. She poured out all the perfume on Jesus, symbolizing that she would give Him all her life.

She was “Broken and Released” She poured it all out for Jesus, she released it, and surrendered herself. Her action communicated more than her words, Jesus, here is my life, it’s all yours I’m holding nothing back.

From breaking perfume bottles Mark shifts our attention to another scene, where Jesus himself breaks something. Jesus “Breaks Bread” it wasn’t just any meal, it was the one that became known as “The Last Supper.” The final gathering of Jesus prior to His death with all his closest and most trusted friends. At an intimate meal Jesus offered them bread and wine, using the grain and grape as visual aids to foreshadow His imminent suffering and death.

“While they were eating Jesus took bread and when He had given thanks, He “broke it,” and gave it to His disciples saying, “Take it, this my body: then He took the cup and when He had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it,’ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many, He said to them (Mark 14:22-24) This illustrated to them what was going to happen to the body of Jesus.

His body would be broken, bruised, and crushed (The Lamb) would die for our sins.

John 15:13 No greater love than to lay down one’s life for a friend.

Luke’s gospel described the very same meal but noted something that Mark did not. (Luke 22:19 “This is my body given for you...) What a remembrance for us to celebrate His death and resurrection. It goes far beyond the Holy Communion, The Lord’s Supper and the Eucharist, it is to recall an extraordinary sacrifice. The price that Jesus paid, that we could be forgiven and gain eternal life with Him. It also involves how we live, for Jesus our lifestyle should be “Broken and Poured Out”

This sounds painful at best and miserable at worst, but it is in the giving of our lives that we find true joy. Rather than pursuing our will, we surrender to His will. Instead of filling our lives with what we want, we empty it to make a difference in the lives of others. **Matthew 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake, shall find it.**

Jesus is not inviting us to a life of comfort and ease, but one of surrender and sacrifice. He is inviting us to die to ourselves so that we can live moment-by-moment and day for Him.

Dangerous prayers are envisioned like the old “Jack-in- the-Box” toy that we played with as children, where you would keep winding it until Jack jumped out. This type praying makes us wonder what might jump out of lives as soon as we make the commitment, we become reluctant to changing from our spiritual comfort zone.

We are saying to God that we trust Him with our lives, and we are willing to allow Him to alter all that is necessary to grow us, when God has broken us, our lives are never the same.

It is easy to impress others but true brokenness honors God first, then reaches out to help man. Our newness will cause other to wonder and ask questions as to ways that their pray life may increase as well. Through brokenness we find our greatest joy, we find hope and greater peace, we find divine boldness and contentment in Jesus.

It is normal to have a feeling of “panic” when asking God for brokenness, Paul asked God several times to remove his throne in his flesh, God answer by saying “my grace is sufficient for thee” (2Corinthians 12:5-8) Paul realized that in his weakness God made him strong. Brokenness is not a one-time thing, it is a lifestyle, Paul said “I die daily: (1Cornithians 15:31) that means that every day we must choose God’s will over our won. In the past we allowed our problems to cause us to run from God, brokenness teaches us to run to God with our problems. Dare to live “Broken and Pour Out” for God.

Questions to Ponder:

How do you feel when you hear “Lord, Break Me?” It is normal to feel a little uneasy because you are asking God to allow new challenges into your life. Trust Him!

Do you ever feel that you need to blend in with the “Status Quo? How do you respond?

When it comes to the Holy Communion, what reflections do you have?