

The Blessings of Brokenness

(Jeremiah 18:1-6)

Have you been broken lately? Do you feel as if your entire world is coming apart? Brokenness does not seem profitable but it can become God's door to His greatest blessings (Psalm 30:5). God delights in the brokenness of His people (Psalm 34:18; 51:17). That's why as fruitful branches, we must be "pruned" (John 15:2), and as His loved children, we must be chastised (Hebrews 12:5-11).

In Jeremiah 18, God used the familiar craft of the potter and turned it into a practical sermon to reveal His divine purposes and benefits in breaking His children.

Sermon Outline

1. God has _____ over you

Like the clay in the hands of the potter, so are Christians in the hands of God. To be in the hand of the Lord is to be under his power and authority (Isa. 65:8; Rom. 9:20-21; John 15:5; Acts 17:28). God's purpose in our lives is not to make us famous, prominent, prestigious or wealthy but to bring us to the position of absolute nothingness so that we will recognize that all we have of value in this life is God and God alone.

2. God has _____ in you

God surely fulfills His purpose in our lives (Jer. 29:11; Eph. 1:5). If even the life of Jesus was designed to be broken (John 12:24), so should our lives be (Matt. 10:39). The clay is dependent upon the potter for both its use and outcome (Hebrews 12:2).

3. God has _____ with you

The vessel was not marred (ruined or destroyed) by the potter's hand, rather it was marred in the hand of the potter (v. 4). God does not destroy life (He is the giver of life). He is gracious and merciful (Rom. 5:20) as in the life of Paul (2 Cor. 12:9-10). God's omnipotence guarantees the fulfillment of all His plans (Psalm 135:6; Job 42:2).

4. God has _____ for you

Brokenness is God's blessing because:

a. It _____ us to the image of God

Only when we are broken can we truly begin to understand the nature and character of God (Psalm 119:67, 71).

b. It _____ us to a better understanding of ourselves

Through brokenness, God prepares and fits us into His kingdom that we might become useful to the Master (2 Tim. 2:20-21)

- c. It _____ us to be more compassionate to others
Brokenness brings us to a position where we can begin to look at other people differently.
We become more compassionate and sympathetic to others (2 Cor. 2:3-4)
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- d. It _____ us to a wholehearted service towards God
Note 1 Peter 5:6. The humbling experience of brokenness, makes our lives of greater use;
like Moses (Exodus 4:10); Peter (John 21:15-18) or Paul (2 Cor. 12:7-10).
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As you go through your time of brokenness, don't despair. You can and must pray and trust God to see you through. Most importantly, look to our Lord Jesus, the supreme example of the pain and the glory of brokenness. He was broken for you!