

BROKENNESS

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Hello – my name is Peter
Maybe you heard about me...

I was a disciple of Jesus
In fact I was the leader, the head, the spokesman
I was the biggest and the best
I was the one Jesus could always count on
I was the one he needed
I was the one who never let Him down

-at least I thought I was, until I learned differently
And I learned that lesson the hard way

I wasn't as great as I thought I was
Maybe you've learned the same lesson?

TRANSITION

Anyway, I'd like to tell you my story today
It's not always pretty – but its always true
You may identify with what I say
-I hope so
-that's why I'm telling it to you!

First I'd better give you a little background

I. BROKENNESS - THE NEEDED

PROBLEM

Disciple – called, 2 yrs with Jesus
Knew as cousin, now 24-7

Leader, spokesman of disciples

Always talking

Big ego – all about me, self-confident to a fault

I could do it all, Jesus needed me, I would take care of Jesus

LAST SUPPER MEAL

Told Jesus He was wrong, not deny Him
knew I wouldn't, could depend on self to do it

GETHSEMANE

Asleep – tired!

ATTACK WITH SWORD

Me confused, surprised, afraid - HAD to do something!
Missed head, cut off lobe of right ear
Trying to give Jesus time to get away

DISCIPLES FLED

I didn't wait for any more, saw opening in back & was gone! out of these! (others same)

Completely forgot promise to not desert Him

Looked back for one last glimpse before behind rocks

Knocked Jesus to ground, tying hands & feet with ropes & chains

I ran and ran way back in woods, hid with John

Found out what happened later:

Pieced together what we saw, others saw, Jesus said later - here's what happened ...

JESUS BOUND

Tied cruelly, roughly

ABRAHAM had ISAAC bound for sacrifice nearby

led like sheep to slaughter!

TO JERUSALEM

Across Kidron (red with BLOOD)

Thru SHEEP Gate

Past Temple (hear LAMBS dying)

Through Jerusalem (after midnight, street deserted)

To Annas, ex-High Priest

TRIAL 1 - ANNAS

Judas: star (only) witness - missing!

Paid to testify against Jesus, not just betray

Revenge never as satisfying as we imagine

Satan 'dumps' him after kiss, sees clearly

Watches from distance, guilt & awareness

Trial goes on without witness

MOCKERY of justice! justify murder

How you feel if before judge trying to kill you

PETER OUTSIDE

Curious, couldn't stay away - drag John along to find out

Jesus said: 1. Pray for protection (didn't!)

2. Get away for safety (didn't!)

Act in own strength!

Not come to rescue, apologize, comfort, help

Just to satisfy curiosity

No plan, over-confident in own ability

DENIAL 1

John well known, in easily

I was dawdling behind, separated in crowd

Then I approached the servant girl at the gate...

"I AM NOT!" Out of mouth before gave it thought!

Courage, self-confidence gone!!!

-didn't pray like Jesus said

-should have stayed away, not ready!

Satan caught him off guard! not expect tempt here!

all heroic promises gone

all courage in self

Just an ARROGANT COWARD!

her sarcasm hit Peter's pride!

STEPS TO SIN

1. PRIDE & SELF-CONFIDENCE at meal
not let Jesus wash feet
insist Jesus wrong @ me denying Him
2. PRAYERLESSNESS in Garden when told 3x to pray
3. ENERGY OF THE FLESH when attacked Malchus
4. DRAGS HIS FEET
5. HANGING AROUND WITH JESUS' ENEMIES
no business being in courtyard, pretending unbel
6. DENIAL itself inevitable

TRAIL 2 - CAIAPHAS

Meanwhile Jesus taken to another part of same house where Caiaphas held another court session

Remember: not a TRIAL but a PLOT (murder plot)

wanted Him DEAD

If not now never would win!

Must kill Him today!

Needed Rome's approval!!

Must have justifiable excuse or no approval

Brought in many false witnesses

Needed 2 to agree @ something !

PHYSICALLY ABUSED prisoner again!

-spit in His face (you ever been spit in face?)

-slapped (like being slapped?)

-struck Him with fists, lit "smashed" repeatedly

-blindfolded & struck - "prophecy who hit you?"

mockery, ridicule

Satan filling them with hatred of Jesus!

DENIAL 2

I could hear the uproar start where I was in courtyard
people at windows watched yelling about it
At fire warming hands, with some ones attacked in Geth!
Servant girl off duty, walked past
Surprised, off guard again - fear takes over
PANIC: "I don't know what you're talking about!"
Others joined in accusing me, I vehemently denied it all
No one believed me, all looked & whispered, watched
Everyone looking for news, and I'M news!

Couldn't escape without making more notice
Time passes: one hour, two hours
People talk about other things, start to relax
Felt OK again (never remembered 3 denials prophecy)
Then it happened

DENIAL 3

Group nearby talking louder and louder, look & point me
Loud enough for all nearby to hear
Recognized me (big, Galilean dress, accent)
Some call out to me, accusing me
Others saying something behind my back
NOT overly bothered that I was a follower of Jesus
BUT that I kept lying and denying it, saying they wrong

MALCHUS RELATIVE there, recognized me!
Cold sweat, despite how chilly I had been
Every notice how sins come back to haunt you?
Curse! Swear! vile fisherman language! (sailors)
emotions out of control
"I don't know this man you're talking about!"
more I denied it, more convinced I was!

ROOSTER CROW

Immediately rooster crowed (3-4 AM)
Reality struck - bottom dropped out!
Scales off eyes and remembered - too late!
“Oh, no!!!!!”

SEE JESUS

Movement out of corner of eye caught my attention
Man led thru courtyard from COUNCIL ROOM
At first split second not recognize Him
Face black & blue, eyes swollen shut
Spit all over face
Blood dripping down on shoulders - AWFUL
Something about walk, carriage, robe - knew Him
He paused, looked right at me, caught my eye

PETER'S RESPONSE

Reality of it all hit home - ton of bricks!
What I'd bragged - what I'd done!
I saw the hurt in His eyes
Not from physical suffering
But from my cursing rejection
I hurt Him in way enemies never could!
NEVER forget that look!
Immediately He was shoved on, encounter over!
Everyone gathered in that direction - Forgot me
Ran out through gate, weeping (2nd time that night)

WEPT: profusely, loud, long, bitterly
long after out of tears kept on
couldn't stop!!!
only thing that made me feel better!


GUILT, FAILURE: at my strong point
commitment to protect, be with Him
Instead of protecting Him I hurt Him!
Always before my Sanguine temperament got me through
Now it got me in trouble!!!

TRANSITION

Later, with hindsight, I could see clearly what God was doing

II. BROKENNESS – THE PROCESS

PETER BROKEN

1. God **targets areas of life** in  which we need to be broken
- Peter "I won't let you die/wash my feet" "I won't deny you"
2. God **arranges circumstances** in which we are to be broken, allows us to set ourselves in a position for it - Peter denying the Lord
3. **Chooses the tools** by which we are to be broken - little girl asking ?
4. **Controls the pressure** that will be placed upon us - looking into the eyes of Jesus
5. Determines the **amount of time** necessary to break us - came to Peter right after resurrection

TRIAL 3 - SANHEDRIN

Meanwhile 'official' trial of Jesus taking place

I found out about it later...

All top men in Israel gathered (but Nic, Jo of Arim)

All illegal

Similar to Trial 2: question, blasphemy

Sentence: death

Next stop: PILATE

I didn't find out any of this until later!

Just thinking of my 'problem' not Jesus'

Wounded pride, ego

Admitting I on my own was a FAILURE!

PETER DURING THIS TIME

Roaming streets, looked awful, felt worse!
Always before Jesus bail me out, forgive & restore Not this
Always before someone else to blame it on Not this time!
Always before convince self I could/would do better. Not this
Always had something else to think @, focus on Not this time!
Supporting, loving Jesus something REALLY wanted to do,
Tried my best, Used all my strength - totally failed!
Would He still LOVE me? How could He?

All night, most of next day I roamed the streets...
Eventually my wife found, took to Upper Room
Most miserable I've ever been in life! NEVER want to go
HIT BOTTOM like never before
If couldn't depend on self, who could depend on?
that's right - only Jesus!
But He was DEAD!!! Those who were there told me
Then Sunday morning it all changed! He WASN'T dead!
I saw Him, actually He found me along
Reassured me of His forgiveness and LOVE
Can you believe that? He still LOVED me!
Despite all I'd done - and not done?

I BROKE! SOMETHING INSIDE ME BROKE!
Something died
The old peter died
I died to myself,
No longer could I fool myself with self-confidence, etc

The WORST thing that ever happened to me
The BEST thing that ever happened to me

If it's happened to you then you know what I'm talking about!
And if it hasn't it will – we all need it!

BROKENNESS – WE ALL NEED IT

Ps 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Like a horse being broken to be good for rider, instant obed

John 12:23-24 Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

Life comes from DEATH: -Jesus

-us to that which keeps us from 100% obedience

Why don't give it up?

afraid we'll miss something, lack something nice for us,

afraid God won't help us through it and too much happen

Would God take anything away from you that is good for you?

Parent to child: takes away pretty, shiny knife child cries

Parent cruel? no! - same with God!

PAUL had to go through this to be useful

Paul calls self "bondslave" - crucified with Christ Gal 2:20

saddle-broke to God

You DO know what your area of brokenness is!

Passed through your mind this morning

maybe excused it, justified it, denied it

Always some area of SELF

self-will, self-reliance self-sufficiency, self-dependency

Goal of brokenness = destroy SELF

so can live in full dependency on HIM

God circles it with bullseye

Jealous God - no other gods, competition, love

He'll break it!

Those God has most difficult time breaking are those who are most gifted, talented, having most as far as world is concerned. Depend on that, put faith in that!

Don't want to give up reigns of their lives

Too proud to be a slave of Jesus!

If you want intimacy in your walk with Jesus
If you want effectiveness in your service for Jesus
Then brokenness is God's way to make that a reality

EXAMPLES:

Moses: anger problem

Jonah: bitterness problem

Paul: self-sufficiency problem

Peter: pride problem

TRANSITION

Restored to Jesus, but unsure of self, not trust self any more

Good – humble

Bad – how to move ahead, do what should do?

III. BROKENNESS – THE APPLICATION

PENTECOST

Holy Spirit fill – source of power

Break self so see need of His power, use it

Preach sermon

3,000 saved that day total 3,120 believers!

CRIPPLED MAN HEALED

About 2,000 believed

PERSECUTION

Jailed, trust in God, released

LEADER OF EARLY CHURCH

Ananias & Sapphira – pronounce judgment on hypocrisy, killed
Aeneas healed instantly
Tabitha (Dorcas) raised back to life
Cornelius – first Gentile, privilege to Peter

FAITHFUL TO DEATH

MARTYRED along with wife, crucified upside down
Rome 54 AD - Nero

TRANSITION

Change came from letting God break me so He could use me
 Depend on self – pride, failure
 Depend on Him - success

He wants to do the same with you

PROMISES related to breaking

1. God only breaks us in love

2. Brokenness is God's discipline in our lives with the purpose that we will be more usable in future service

 Other forms of discipline are to chastise us to have us live holy for Him right now

 Brokenness is for future service

 Punishment is only for unbel, never for bel

3. God sets limitations on our periods of brokenness

Time - how long

Intensity of the pain - how much

Like furnace heated to melt ore into iron -- never too much, but always just right heat and time

God EXPERT at that timing!

Length of time it takes determined by

length of time it will take determined by what God is trying to break us from - lifelong trains of thought, attitudes, dependency on another person, childhood things, etc.

length of time it takes for us to submit and stop rebelling/refusing

4. God's process of breaking us **ceases when our will is broken**. He doesn't want to break our spirit, just our will.

5. The process of brokenness ceases at the moment it would **damage** God's great purpose for our lives.

Not allow our spirit to be broken

Not allow our live to be taken prematurely

Paul never died before God's time!

6. God **deepens our understanding** through seasons of brokenness
sensitivity to others hurting
compassion, not judging and criticizing others
responding to God's will in our lives

7. God **never deserts us** through our time of brokenness

"I will never leave you or forsake you"

He does break us from attachments we shouldn't have, things/people we are dependent on instead of Him, having control of our own lies ourselves,

God wants us only dependent on Him !!!

Then we can go back to the other people and things we used to depend on and enjoy them with balance, not need/dependency/insecurity - relationships can be more healthy, etc.

Only this way can we have healthy, balanced relationships

8. God is always **patient** with us through our periods of brokenness

9. If you continue to rebel and **refuse to submit** no matter what, there comes a time when God stops and

-sets you on the shelf, stop growing, feeling close to Him, useful

-takes you home to heaven prematurely

10. God will lead you to **victory** through brokenness -- if we are willing to submit to His will

When we rebel against His breaking experience we delay the work of God and waste years when there will be no fruit or reward

"Like all living tissue, bone is constantly being broken down and reformed."

The words seemed to apply not only to our bodies but to the perpetual Christian emphasis on brokenness. Repent! Confess! Acknowledge your sinfulness.

As long as my relationship to God is alive, this biological fact seems to suggest the tearing-down process will be part of it. The confession of sin, the admission of guilt, will go hand in hand with renewal....There can be no growth without pruning, no rebirth without death.

CONCLUSION

Ps 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Will you pray

Lord, more than anything in this life I want to be close to you and useful to you. I give you authority to break me in whatever area needs breaking so I can be closer to you and serve you better.

PRAY SILENTLY (kneel, come to front)

Break - brokenness!

Tell Him you love Him