

Broken By God ■ God Breaks You To Make You

by Shane Idleman

This sermon emphasizes the importance of allowing God to break us in order to make us stronger and more aligned with His will. It discusses the struggles, hindrances, and secret sins that hold us back, highlighting the need for repentance, humility, and seeking God's grace. The speaker encourages embracing brokenness as a blessing, acknowledging that God often uses challenges to refine and shape us into vessels for His purpose. The message underscores the significance of testimony, wisdom, waiting on God, and worship during trials, emphasizing the transformation that comes from surrendering to God's refining process.

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Scripture: Matthew 21:44, Psalm 51:10, Isaiah 57:15, 2 Corinthians 12:7, Psalm 66:16, Proverbs 3:5, Romans 8:28, Matthew 11:28, James 4:10

Topics: "Brokenness", "Transformation through Surrender"

Description

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Transcript

The title of the message this morning is God breaks you to make you. God breaks you to make you and the automated texting system might be sending out the link to this and I think pretty much everyone this morning is going to know someone who needs to hear this and be encouraged so you can send that to them tell them to listen to this important message because this is where the sets the men apart from the boys have you heard that saying this is where the rubber meets the road in this process of breaking and we are still in revelation 12 I was going to finish revelation 12 but there are two verses that caught my attention that we can put up that I wanted to kind of springboard off of them into this topic revelation 12 11 remember a couple weeks ago they overcame him by the blood of the lamb and by the word of their testimony and they did not love their lives to the death then revelation 12 17 then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring who's that believers depending on

when you think this was written or what it pertains to the bottom line is he is making war against believers those who keep God's commandments and they hold fast their testimony about Jesus and so I want to talk to you more a couple weeks ago but just didn't get the time on this topic of testimony it's so important even on twitter as well I mentioned that again all these you know some of these major church leaders falling and others ruining their testimony and the testimony is at stake and a testimony is so important it is so important because your kids are watching your testimony not what you say remember the poem I like to quote on father's day I don't think I can remember it but wait come back father's day I remember a little bit the lessons you deliver may be very wise and true but I'd rather get my lesson by observing what you do for I may misunderstand you and the high advice you give but there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live we are in a war for our testimony I am you are that's where the enemy is going to come after us in this area of testimony that's why it's so important to hold our ground and God breaks you to make you God will break you to make you and God often prepares you before he places you I've got a lot of cute little sayings during this sermon but it'll it'll it'll it'll hit some of you where it needs to hit God prepares you before he places you reading from streams in the desert a devotional written in the 1940s I would highly encourage you to sign up for them as well as Oswald Chambers my utmost for his highest they can email it to you every day and it's just amazing the insight a lot of these people have some of the storms of life come suddenly a great sorrow a bitter disappointment a crushing defeat anybody been there yet it is in the storm that God equips us for service when God wants an oak tree he plants it on the moor where the storms will shake it and the rains will beat down upon it and it is in the midnight battle with the elements that the oak wins its rugged fiber and becomes king of the forest when God wants to make a man he puts him into some storm the history of manhood is always rough and rugged no man is made until he has been out into the surge of the storm and has found fulfillment in that wonderful prayer oh God take me break me and make me that's a powerful prayer take me make me break me the broken brokenness is a blessing the power of brokenness what does that mean well I'm glad you asked keep listening you'll know exactly what it means in about 45 minutes but think about this the disappointments of childhood the pain of parenting and the loneliness of getting older all of these wilderness experiences do have a purpose one of the hardest things I think for any parent after losing a child is watching God break that child or maybe out of sin or disobedience there's a brokenness and you see your child going through and as much as you want to pull them out of that storm sometimes you have to let them stay in that storm to get stronger did you know the babies would never walk if we didn't let them if you just carried around the baby never let them develop their muscles so the enemy wants to destroy our testimonies especially as things get worse compromise begins to enter in even more the enemies after your testimony as a believer I want you to think about this if salvation is a gift from God initiated by the act of the will as many people say if you reject him or accept him if salvation is that gift from God the person initiated by the act of the will then destroying that person's testimony definitely hinders people coming to the Lord many of the Samaritans believe because of the woman at the wells testimony is that true you see so many so many testimonies of people and that it's hard to watch and we've seen a lot of testimonies praise God there's there's tons of still success stories but I wish I could tell you that every success story is ending well many back in their addictions many have left their marriage you see even leaders you know pastors well-known pastors all this this controversy and falling and and it hurts the flock and that's why we often say never look at a man or a movement look at the cross if you follow me around for a week you'll see things come out anybody get upset in traffic they take your parking spot you wanted maybe raise your voice when you if you follow people around that that flesh comes out sometimes and our testimony as especially when when Christians are new to the faith and they see people falling it can really set them back many of us we've been around enough to wear such and such on tv or the radio or whatever it's not

gonna it's sad and and it lets the wind out of my cell but I understand the nature of man and I'm going to follow Christ regardless of what men do I just shared yesterday I think it's when God develops your character by John Bevere and his wife Lisa are doing a podcast they have some incredible insight he said don't let your platform get bigger than your character we could just pause right there right and let that let that kind of sink in a little bit I did like Lord help me just I don't I this character has to be be able to sustain what you're calling us to because your anointing will take you somewhere but it's your character that keeps you there and I'm going to talk with the men about this in February and the Saturday mornings that we're doing once a month I've committed to meet with the men pray with them talk with them kind of unopen my heart uh just for men only if we film it maybe ladies you can watch it later but uh but that's so important character is what stands the test of time that's what I'm fighting for every day that's what you're fighting for every day that's why we apologize to our spouses we apologize for to our kids we want to make that difference but I want to share a key with you so it will encourage you not all brokenness is from God because people can get bitter at God why are you allowing this have you ever asked the why questions you guys are not participating I know it's hard right it's like yeah really what that often means why who has hurt you doesn't spell exactly that who what something has hurt you now become bitter at God but regardless of where the brokenness comes from God can use it thank God for that can you imagine can can you just imagine if God's word said something like but in these situations you're kind of on your own you you've drifted to I can't ah Satan's got you on this I don't know what to do on these so that's why you need to stay here could you imagine talk about going insane Romans 8 28 and we know that all things work together for good the reason I stopped there is I've heard so many people quote it and stop there you don't you can't stop there there's not even a comma oh brother you know I think God works everything for good well there's kind of a little bit more to that to those who love God now how do we know we love God Jesus said in scripture teaches that we obey his word correct yes obedience is very important but obedience must flow from a joyful heart if you're obedient but you're critical and mean you're almost like the pharisee and so yeah I love God I follow his word and that's this is actually why I come up with a lot of those names right prune face Pam there's a Pam here to mean you where you at Pam didn't mean here okay I just wrote these down nobody there's a carry here too I better not say all these things prune face Pam critical carry bitter Barbara don't worry man I've got a few for you legalistic Larry arrogant Andy and judgmental Jeff all these people obey the word of God but they're as hard as stone that's not a person who loves God you love your theology and you're arrogant you want to be right about certain things and again we all struggle with this you know us as I said in a video I just put out recently us truth guys right anybody truth guys do you lean more towards truth or love just a few of you I'm gonna start pointing you guys out here in a minute because I know who you are I don't say you're all truth and no love I say when you lean you're gonna it's all it's about the truth right okay and then there's a love side oh just just Henry I knew it yeah good call just just just love them and just and that's good but biblically speaking we gotta come back to the middle and have that truth and love both of those he works all things to those who are the called according to his purpose so I better line up with his purpose and that often involves repenting that's why I talk about repentance a lot not only is it great for somebody who doesn't know the Lord to come to saving faith but it's also good to get the Christian back on track it's basically how we clean house is January everybody's talking about juice cleanses and cleansing the body repentance is spiritual cleansing because it gets the joy of the Lord back into our heart then if we love God our attitudes right we repent Lord I want to do your will then everything that happens he will work out for his good not necessarily what we want but his good and then Job I love this verse but he knows the way I take when he has tested me I shall come forth as gold it's interesting right if you have a anybody have a 14 carat ring or 24 John Bevere talked about this too 24 carat that's not pure gold once you put that gold in the furnace

that's why the Bible talks about furnace of affliction then those things begin to come out the dross the impurities and then what's left over is the pure gold so Job in essence is saying he's tested me in these wilderness experiences in these difficulties and these things come out of me to eventually better me now on this side of heaven there's no perfect person walking around but aren't you glad many of you are a lot better than you used to be I pray with people often they're like I can't believe the Lord took away my anger I used to get so mad and I prayed for God to take it away and it got harder you ever do that the reason is it's coming out these things are coming out of you so often when you want these things out things don't get easier in life calm you go through the storms and the challenges to bring these things out and repent some of some of us have given up anger because we're just so disgusted as to what at what it causes God's got us to such a place of brokenness that those those impurities came out lusts the impurity of lust comes out as well I mean you I could apply this to so many different areas where we come forth as gold in our attitude in our mind and our physical appetites all just things to purify us to get us closer to look like Christ 2nd Corinthians 1 4 God comforts us in our tribulation that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble another reason for brokenness and don't you feel so good when you can talk to somebody and help them because God brought you through often often not always but often your deepest pain your deepest struggle as God's taking you through that's going to be your greatest place of anointing that's going to be your greatest work of of what you're going to do for God praying for people in this specific specific area that he brought you through because it's hard to bring someone through something you've never been through how many can really I love when people have no kids give me parenting advice come and talk to me in a few years it's funny Moses had to live in the wilderness before he took them through the wilderness that's why I've talked about this on podcasts before and at pastors conferences and things but and I'm all for whenever God calls a person whatever age but if you're young and you're a pastor you might want to you know 24 25 26 27 28 29 you know you might want to sit underneath some seasoned leadership for a while because you don't know enough to take people through the pain of pastoring you can't relate to this you don't understand this all you're worried about is sermon preparation and how well you did and seminary didn't teach me this God often calls people even sometimes later as they go through challenges I thank God I he didn't call me young it's hard it's hard as it is older as hard as it is psalm 119 many of you like this one as well verse 67 I chose the amplified version before I was afflicted I went astray you could say before the police got involved how real do you guys want me to be this morning before the police got involved I was cocky I was doing my own thing before I got home and I saw that letter on the table I'm leaving and I'm taking the kids before I was afflicted I went astray and I don't like this about us but that's the truth God has to keep us back to come back here come because we're like y'all excited and we get now we do now we start to stray and we're every time the children of Israel strayed from the Lord is because of prosperity often their prosperity and their blessing became a curse even in the wilderness oh we just have this stupid manna from heaven if God was making food for me people don't know what diet's best I'm pretty sure that was a perfect food but they were complaining grumbling complaining and then God brings them out Joshua there's not a lot of complaining they're just obeying and brings them into the promised land and that things are going great and then they start to stray Solomon strayed because of that David even started to stray because of that the kings would stray and the prophets would try to get them back return to the Lord oh backsliding Israel they didn't they didn't stray very often in their in their in the war time in the difficult times they strayed in the prosperity why is that because it makes us lazy I like what one of the I think it was Jeremiah you were acting like well-fed lusty stallions naying at your neighbor's wife they didn't hold out any punches right you become fat and lazy that's what they said and that's what does comfort does to us comfort comfort if we're not careful so God in his mercy will leave us sometimes in very difficult situations that don't make sense but I do want to talk about life changing

brokenness versus life maintaining brokenness there are moments where life changes and you are thrown into the situation and you could say God is breaking you or he's using because people say are you are you saying that God caused my divorce no but he used it he used it to bring that that allowed it I should say as well to bring you to that spot so there's life changing brokenness where you're just at your wits end and you finally cry out to God but there's also life maintaining brokenness because once you get there when God broke me around 1999-2000 when he broke me I didn't stay there naturally right again everything's going good doing this and you start to get prideful arrogant God said I'm gonna have to slap him again and how you do that is you put others first you work on being gentle and calm and seasoning your words with grace and and staying plugged into a home group or plugged into a church or coming that's why we do a lot of events you know uh sacred assembly nights or morning worship or when you know we do all these things to help people stay broken and fed and refueled and you have to maintain and sometimes even as a Christian God will use things to wake you up and break you again break you again if heaven has called you hell will attack you and when you're broken God may finally get your attention but here's an important key don't stay in the broken state I really want to drive this home I wish I had more time to don't stay broken don't stay broken God doesn't break us so we stay broken and bitter and unproductive and walk around like this right can't think of a good word gloomy louie you know just always broken broken by there's there's there's something about God's pleasure too God wants us to experience his pleasure I just I just heard this guy focus on the family this week and I posted on my Facebook page his book I'm just starting to read it so I can't endorse it because I haven't got through you know because I'll hold you to everything you say on camera I don't even know the title but he talked about and and for those truth people again you can you can drift to this you know can't have fun side the dude don't do this don't do this don't do this don't do this I'm the don't God and I'm I'm obeying God's word and he said that's like and I can totally relate I go out back in the summer I watch my kids play and take pleasure in the trampoline and there's the playing right I take pleasure if they what happens when they sulk and they go sit on the porch and say I'm not having fun I don't want to do this anymore it breaks my heart and I never really made that that God takes pleasure and the pleasure and joy of his people and and we want to celebrate this thing the the things to take pleasure and that's what actually happens with addiction is we talk start to take pleasure in the things that God has not ordained and we start to exchange those pleasures so don't stay in that broken state the broken person needs to just repent and and start to experience the the joy of the Lord again most don't seek the Lord until there is pressure anybody say amen to that many of us don't seek the Lord until there is pressure can you imagine if the top five political problems right now didn't exist and these are big these are big issues these are big issues facing our nation and it's pressuring a lot of people and that's my concern instead of getting humble and broken they're getting angry and arrogant like like that's going to fix it God uses difficult times to pressure us could it be that he loves America so much that he is allowing some pressure only when our hand is forced do we yield when our back is to the wall and our fleshly attempts at deliverance are all washed away Michael Catt he goes on to say the blessing of God cannot come without the wrestling if there is no willingness to yield there will never be willingness for God to rule brokenness breaks brazen attitudes it pummels our prideful hearts and it annihilates arrogance thank God for the broken road that led me straight to him we should pray God thank you for brokenness thank you for humbling me thank you Lord that I'm able to to to now look back and say oh God use those turning points in my life so don't necessarily look for brokenness but if God breaks you embrace it I even started to look back I wrote and I don't want this to be about me but sometimes it helps you know to give people some idea I started to think back on my life all the different I mean even little league I remember I was like the number one pitcher people were coming all out to watch they're clocking me on this you know 63 64 miles an hour and and man and and this you know my

dad brings me in baser loaded no outs and I strike everybody out now we're going and and then I had to have arm surgery that's why I still can't straighten it got into physical therapy on it you know physical therapy was it was back then the doctor said carry around a heavy can of soup all day to straighten it out but then I go into high school paraclete high school still was really good they were really good in baseball back then I didn't even make the the team for a couple years because I couldn't I couldn't throw anymore the humbling but I look back now thank God because you see some of these athletes I've never seen more pride in all my life my goodness that you think they'd walk on water and God uses these these humbling things and then high school so much humbling took place and and you walk out there you're kind of like the limp right of of God just breaking and breaking trying to get this pride out of you trying to get this pride out of you I want to share a clip too let me set it up I think we have it ready I was actually the oldest filming footage I found of me in 24-hour fitness and I was the top salesman in California Southern California with hundreds and hundreds of employees that was my goal that was my God in the bodybuilding and then I show you a clip where the next convention I came up and I was in third place not first anymore I was so mad I remember it but it'd be funny even to show you how much just God has even changed my heart it's on the video this that the church put out arrogant arrogant arrogant all right that's good it sets the stage I lost a lot of weight since then by in case you can't tell but anyway that was my that was my God working out being the strongest guy in the gym and then God allows something called my apartment my a pericarditis at 24 I'm in the hospital for four days did that humble me nope and then God started to take the this number one then number three and now your area is not doing that great now we need to demote you because you have to keep beating yourself corporate America many of you guys know you have to keep beating same store growth every year and when you don't they demote you corporate America doesn't play around if you're not hitting the numbers and these breaking in this breaking in this breaking it's in and that's how God makes a man or woman of God is they get all these things out of you although not perfect amen but there's a process where where God breaks you and breaks you and breaks you some of the greatest moments in your life come in the darkest hours some of the greatest intimacy you will ever have from God come in the silent times many of you know people are going through hell right now you need to encourage them with all of this when God breaks you and then rebuilds you it's it's incredible God is often the potter and we are the clay correct but this potter actually breaks the clay and then softens it to rebuild it there's three tests during a trial when God is breaking you that you need to be aware of we give up sometimes and we quit it's either too hard too long or too slow anybody relate Lord this is too hard so I'm doing something that God's called me to do and I become bitter and I run from my calling or what he's called you to do it could be a marriage could be anything think about if pastor did that this this is too hard I don't need to put up with this let me go get a nine to five and and have an easy life too hard too long Lord please please what's taking so long and then we jump out out of ship we jump off the ship the difference between too long and too short is this for example when we you know if we drive to see my family in Idaho it's hard for us because it's too long right but if we do make the drive and we go 10 miles an hour then it's too slow things are not happening quick enough and often God uses the situation to work so where all three of these have been dealt with Lord I don't care how hard it is you are my strength I don't care how long it takes because those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength and I don't care if it's too slow because waiting time is not wasted time and when the heart is right then God begins to shape that man or woman of character even more the promised land wasn't given to them in one battle oh boy we could camp out on that think about it all these battles we want to you know I want to win next week I want I want this to be over sometimes it's city by city they didn't go in I don't think they ever conquered all of it and it took years and years and years and so that's one thing why I don't give up on America because there are some battles I mean when Roe v Wade was overturned how many

churches didn't say anything well they're they're revealing their true colors oh but this caused this for I don't know I'm glad that happened after 50 years of prayer right and some things are our battles daily battles we overcome this then this happens we overcome this and this happens that's why it's a constant struggle when a bone is broken it is set in place to heal so there's so many different mixed stories in this room some of you have could preach the same sermon probably even better others of you I don't know I haven't really been broken yet well hold on honey I'm preparing people for that when something is broken it's been set in place to heal and we can't run from that process then there's three responses during this trial that are so important wisdom wisdom I keep encountering this a lot when I'm giving counsel to people you know we're waiting we do you like when God writes the answer up in the sky maybe with a chemtrail but don't get me but oh if he would just tell me he would just tell me and I tell a lot of people you know God gives us wisdom for a reason God gives us pastor I don't know if I need to fast well you know you have a lot of health issues I don't know you might need to make some changes wisdom I don't know if I should buy that car that's they're \$80,000 now and I really like these electric cars you're not gonna be able to pay that wisdom wisdom so through the brokenness and through these trials what is wise what is the right thing to do wisdom is the principal thing prover says therefore get wisdom and in all your understanding get more wisdom she will exalt you she will promote you and I know as Christians especially as Christians who believe that the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit or the Holy Spirit can still speak to us today or lead us today not equal to scripture not above scripture but sometimes we need a little help Lord prompting directing and sometimes we rely on that more than wisdom I feel this leading is it wise does it line up with scripture have you waited on God how many times do we just rush into something because of fear just me rush into something because because of fear what's that food storage you know the last 25 years you buy those boxes I've got like eight boxes taking up a closet from COVID time food chain's gonna be shut down call this number boom but it's okay to have that stuff sure it's okay to be I think it's wise to have extra water extra that's just wisdom because you're providing for your family you're not doing out of fear but then sometimes we do make decisions out of fear so what is what is wise and I've learned over the long haul that God often doesn't want me to make a quick impulsive decision without waiting on him I can't tell you how many times I've changed my my mind on things that I move too quickly on but waiting on the Lord that was number two wait on him and then as you're waiting you worship why is that so why is that so important because you can have wisdom and you can be waiting and then you can become critical and bitter I know a lot of people using wisdom and waiting on God but they're not happy about it and they'll let you know if he doesn't answer me by next month I'm taking this matter in my own hands I don't know what's taking so long well it's probably going to take a long time until you get your attitude straight I know there are some things that God has for this church I've been praying about for a long time but it if we're not ready it's not going to come but be encouraged be encouraged I don't know if I put this point up here some things are better broken some things are better broken correct so be encouraged if God is breaking you some things are better broken broken crowns still color whether gloves still catch and broken up soil must happen in order for plants to be planted that's why God told one of the prophets either Hosea or Amos and one of them break up your follow ground it is time to seek the Lord break up that follow ground they knew what it meant the ground had grown hard and stony and nothing can penetrate the water would hit it and just kind of flow away in order to grow something in order for God to do something in that harvest they had to go and take these tools and break up that follow ground and then he paralleled that to their heart break up the follow ground to your heart I know you've been a Christian a long time but you're condescending and arrogant you are just as hard as a rock I know you've been a Christian for a while but you have no joy you're so selfish and arrogant I know you've been a Christian for a while but you've been treating your spouse like she's or he's or whatever it just is is chop meat I don't know you put fill in the blank right and

and I know you I've been a Christian but I've got all this hardness is built up anybody can relate because life will jade you life will make you hard that's what happens with our law enforcement officers and and correctional officers that's why I have to pray for them can happen to pastors too become jaded and hurt and that that stone that just builds up break that follow ground thank God broken crown still color I like that the reason I like is because I remember I don't know what what daughter it was of mine but they came in there was so there's they're crying they're like my crown is broke my crown my new crown is broken daddy's my favorite color I said that's okay the color is even better it makes some big broad pictures it colors in the lines even better this type of crown is much better for what we're trying to do God knows how to break a man he knows how to break a person and get that person to the point of desperation because when you come out of that desperation you begin to seek him like never before the fullness of the spirit begins to dwell inside of you joy and peace with the that you can't explain comes into your heart God bless the broken road that led me straight to you broken broken broken he rebuilds the broken and he elevates the humble don't stay broken don't stay battered and don't stay bitter maybe some of you need to hear that don't stay broken battered and bitter I know people in this church who that applies to and I pray for them their brokenness and what they've went through in life has caused them to become bitter and angry and frustrated and I'm not minimizing what people go through but if you don't get on your face before God and repent and say God please get me back up on the right I want the joy of the Lord to return I want the joy you think God's gonna say nope not right now you're gonna have to wait a few weeks now it might take some time to get certain things out of us because I believe that's why God doesn't completely deliver or answer that prayer right away let's say I'm praying I'm praying Lord I need that joy back I need that peace back oh Lord please I need oh holy spirit comes upon you right and it's and that happens sometimes without I can't even tell you how many times that has happened but there's other times where okay hot shot you're gonna have to humble yourself go tell that person sorry stop holding in that bitterness that I'm for oh no no no no well the joy is not coming until you do something we forget that sometimes the scriptures tell us to do something God didn't say I'll break up the fall of ground don't worry sit at home go pick up Krispy Kreme watch reacher and all break up the follow ground he said you you break up the follow ground so in the breaking process there is responsibility on our end because you can play broken to others and not truly be broken and so to some of you also I'd ask the question what's it going to take to break you what's it going to take to break you I've seen Christians being broken by God who are not receptive and I wonder what in the world is it going to take you what's it going to take in our nation to break us this year's gonna have a lot of surprises I can tell you that much are we going to become fearful and attack our political opposite and think that somebody's gonna get an office and save us at this point at this point nobody is coming to save you only God only God I love this verse Isaiah I dwell God says I dwell in the high and holy place with him who has a contrite and humble spirit God says I will dwell with you I will revive you if you're humble I will revive the contrite ones that's an incredible promise I dwell with those who are humble and broken and contrite but the arrogant I what push away remember that verse I learned when I first came back to Lord just really stood out I think Ezekiel he said I will bring back the broken I will strengthen the sick I will heal or heal the stick or strengthen those who are weak but the fat the proud the arrogant I will feed and judgment thus saith the Lord and I just highlighted that I mean that when it says the fat the proud it means a lot of times their gluttony their lascivious living their partying had turned into this hard lifestyle and God said I will I will resist the proud but give grace to the humble when God gets us alone through suffering heartbreak temptation disappointment sickness or by our desires not coming to pass my dreams have died anybody relate he absolutely gets us alone and then we are totally speechless unable to ask even one question then he begins to teach us Oswald Chambers and I sat for a while and I pondered I'm like you know what he's right the times I've been really taught by God we're not in times of of

prosperity and joy things going great he teaches us through that affliction Michael Cat again from his book the power of desperation breakthroughs in our brokenness and I highly recommend it he said they sing on Sunday about the cross and then they live in deception manipulation and lies during the week as a pastor I see this a lot and it breaks my heart what happens on Sunday has very little to do with how they live the rest of their lives until they face a crisis isn't that interesting the lukewarm Christian has to go through some fire to be heated up as I said before thank God for young pastors we need more of them but the sooner they understand the blessing of brokenness and the power of humility the better they will be at leading others and A.W. Tozer said it's doubtful it's doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until he has hurt him deeply the saying also goes it's doubtful that God can use a man powerfully and mightily until he has hurt him deeply because it takes broken people to break people and it's so important this topic is so important then we can say then we can say come and hear what God has done for me I love that verse in psalm psalm 66 16 then we can say hey come and hear what God has done for me I want to encourage all of you to be here Wednesday the 7th of February it's guest worship and the and all the people in the choir are graduates of teen challenge and I'm going to give a special message from psalms but but come and hear come and hear what God has done for me and that's what you do after God breaks you and humbles you and you come out of that furnace of affliction is fine gold then you can tell others look at what God has done for me that's why in Christian apologetics I don't know what to say to my neighbor I don't know what to say you don't have to worry about it just say this is what God has done for me yeah well I don't believe the Bible I don't know what to tell you this is what God has done for me yeah but men wrote the Bible I don't know what to tell you but this is what God has done for me I believe in evolution and atheism where's it got you let me tell you what God has done for me I do want to encourage all of you the making of a man of God or even a woman of God of Of course, God often uses a limp and a thorn. A limp and a thorn, doesn't He? Remember Jacob, after his name was changed, he said, now you're going to be called Israel.

Israel. And he was wrestling. Richard Andrews sings that song, I'm Not Going to Go Until You Bless Me.

A lot of people don't understand, but the lyrics are powerful because it's talking about wrestling with God. And Jacob says, I'm not going to go until you bless me. He's not talking about Alexis.

Get that out. If God said, Shane, you're not going to make much money, but I'm going to bless you, I would take that over any other thing on planet Earth. Would you not? God's going to walk with me and bless you.

I'm not going to let go until you bless me. Okay, and now your name has changed to Israel. But just so you don't forget, I'm going to do something in your hip joint there.

And so he gets up, God bless him, and now he's like, oh... And the family gets home. What happened to you? I don't know about you, but I don't like to explain my limp all the time, do you? Why are you broken? Why did this happen in your past? The shame and the guilt? Anybody dealt with that before? The limp and the thorn? You've got the limp, and then Paul said, a messenger from Satan came against me. He buffeted my flesh.

So I'm glad it doesn't say what it is, because you can apply it to just about anything. And I prayed, Paul prayed, Lord, take this away. Anybody been praying that before? Lord, take this away, take this away, take this away, three times I pleaded.

But God said, I'm not going to take it away. That thorn in your flesh is not going to leave. But my grace is sufficient.

So as he has this thorn in the flesh, walking around with it, it could be, you know, people say it's eyesight. People say he struggled with this less. Who knows? I'm glad we don't know, because that's what Paul dealt with.

Glad I don't have to deal with it. You know, I don't have that issue. Don't be like, oh, I'm glad I'm not like that.

You have your issues, be quiet. Who are you trying to fool? That's why we should never judge, I can't believe they did that. I can't believe they fell again and went to the liquor store.

Well, you can't give up caffeine, nicotine, or food. That addiction's addiction. Now, one has worse consequences, but get off your high horse.

And so you're walking around with that thorn. Maybe people could see if it was eyesight or something physical, and you're walking around with that reminder. That's not too spiritual.

You throw the limp in there, what's wrong with you? What's wrong with you? Anybody, well, don't put up your hands, but have you ever been divorced? You like carrying that big D around on your forehead? Oh, I remember that. Who do you think you are in church? That limp. Remember how you blew it? Remember 10 years ago? You destroyed your life.

People see that limp. Maybe you're in a recovery home. It's embarrassing.

Where do you work at? I don't right now. And you carry that limp around. That limp hurts.

It's painful. I'll never forget the first time I met Morgan's dad. Six foot five, ex-Marine.

So what do you do? Live with my mom and work construction. What? You live with your mom at 30? One or whatever? And you dig ditches? You know how humbling that was? He didn't act like that, thank God. But inside I'm thinking, just wait.

Just wait, God is preparing me. God broke me down to build me up. And I knew I could see the end.

I could see the end of where this was going, obviously. But those embarrassing moments, those limps that will not leave, those thorns, they're there for a purpose, to keep us humble. So what you're struggling with, pray that God takes it away.

I pray, because you don't want to keep falling, but also it's a good reminder of how broken we are. How many of you know that story in John 5 where Jesus goes and He heals that man? He heals him. He's on a bed.

And Jesus then, after He healed him, said, take up your bed and go. And He's going with His bed. And the Pharisees said, who healed you? Why are you carrying your bed on the Sabbath? Right, He's holding His bed, so I don't know, that could have been a little embarrassing.

Right, like why are you carrying your bed? We used to be paralytic or what happened to you? And so He's carrying around this bed. And I just started to think how we also do something like that divorce. What I just said, it's not what I wanted people to say.

But they have to carry around that bed, don't they? It's that reminder. As much as we want to forget about it, we don't want people to know about it. Correct? We don't want people to know about it.

We're carrying this around. Abortion, oh, there's a famous singer now, it was in the news this week, she so regrets ending the lives of her children for fame and fortune. And she's got to carry around that bed.

Prodigals. Any parents have kids that aren't living where they need to be living with the Lord? That's painful, isn't it? Very painful. And we say, and I hear it a lot, and I weep with them, I try to be a good parent.

I try to be a good parent. And they're carrying around that bed. This is a hard one.

Honestly, I'm being transparent this morning, too much show maybe. But this is a hard one for me because I live in a fishbowl. So any little thing my kids do wrong, it's magnified.

And then I have to walk around with the same bed. And if you've had divorce, abortion, and prodigal, then you're carrying a heavy bed. And life will begin to weigh you down.

My health is failing. Lord, I believe, but help my unbelief. I've got financial failure.

Anybody had a financial failure? And been embarrassed you've got to carry that bed around? Part of the story I didn't tell you, 24-Hour Fitness is in my 20s. I had a custom home in Quartz Hill in my 20s. Six figures back in the 1990s.

That's not too bad. And God called me, I just had to let everything go. Stock options, everything go.

And it took a while. It took like six months. I went and got apartments.

I'm not moving with my mom. Heck no. That's too embarrassing.

And then after the savings runs down, guess what? I said, mom, but you don't tell anybody I'm living here. And to make money, what'd I have to do? I had to go grab a shovels and digging bars and dig ditches. I'd be at people's homes.

They'd be like, what are you doing? I'm a Christian now. What happened to you? Carrying that bed. Don't you hate when your sin is seen by all? This man was carrying his bed around.

Broken marriage. I don't know what else to do, Shane. I've tried everything.

My marriage is broken. And people know it. They see you and they're, we're such and such.

And you carry that bed around. They see you carrying that bed around. Addiction.

I keep falling. I keep failing. And people see it.

Isn't that embarrassing? Come on, let's be real. You get up in the morning like, what did I do? What happened last night? Oh my God. And people are joking.

I'm just glad they didn't have social media when I was partying. Golly. Man.

It's on film forever. And they keep carrying this bed. My sin is in front of everybody.

My failure's in front of everybody. What about regret? Anybody say, I wish I could do things over again. And so I thought, why am I still carrying my bed? People think that.

Why am I still carrying my bed? Why do I have these reminders? Why do I have this pain? Why do I have this shame? Can anybody relate? It's like, we wanna look like Superman and super Christian. I have a guy straight from seminary. I've done great.

I've no problems. And look at this. All five of my kids serve the Lord and they're walking with the fullness of the gospel.

And I've never, no marriage issues. I don't think we've ever argued. Woo! And we feel that way.

It's, why am I still carrying this? Why are these reminders here? Why is this pain here? Why is this shame here? Anybody have shame over their past life or what they went through? And Jesus says, yeah, you're still carrying the bed. You're still carrying the bed. But before you met me, the bed was carrying you.

Yeah, you're carrying around those things. You're carrying that bed. But before you met me, that bed was carrying you.

And we pray, oh God, this morning, take me, break me, and make me. God is the shepherd of the shattered. I think we had up there earlier, Johnny Erickson Tata.

Do you know who she is in the wheelchair? She said, God permits what he hates to accomplish what he loves. Let that sink in. God permits what he hates.

Something going on in your life. Something breaking you. Something happens.

He permits it because he wants to accomplish what he loves. In other words, he wants to help you. He wants to get you through.

He wants to develop you. Matthew 21, 44, Jesus said, whoever falls on this stone, meaning himself, will be broken in a good way. But whoever it falls, it will grind him to powder.

So Jesus is saying, calling them to repentance, fall on this stone. Fall on me. Let it break you.

Let it humble you. Because when I come back and I judge the world, if this stone has to fall on you, it's going to grind you to powder. You see, we have a choice, no matter what you believe, technically, sociology-wise, or what we know that God will judge people based on their decision to accept him or reject him.

So I think we need to rest in him. I don't know where you're at this evening or this morning, I should say. Rest in him.

Don't run from him. Run to him. How many of you run from God? Run back to him.

That is the key. Repent and return. Repent and return.

Too many people think lightly of sin, and therefore, lightly of their Savior. Don't minimize sin. Guys, in a culture now that minimizes sin, we need to put it in its right light.

It is disobedience against God. He calls us to repentance. I'm going to leave you with this takeaway from John 5. John 5. In John 5, Jesus heals this man.

And the man is laying on a bed. And he heals the man, and then he says, okay, take the bed with you. Take this bed and go.

So he's walking around with this bed, and the Pharisees see him and go, why are you carrying a bed on the Sabbath? Like, well, these guys, man, unbelievable. Jesus just heals the guy. It shows the hardness of the heart.

So he's carrying around this bed with him after Jesus healed him. And it kind of reminded me of what I talked about earlier. Divorce as well.

Many of you are still carrying around that bed. It's not what I wanted. I didn't mean to end up here.

And it's like you have that limp that will not leave, or you have that thorn, or you're still carrying your bed. I don't want people to see my bed. Can you relate? I don't want people to see my shame.

I don't want people to know my story. I don't want people to know my past. Especially, and people say in this area, what about abortion? I was young.

I didn't mean to do that. But we have to carry that bed. Prodigals.

You have prodigals in your family. You try to be a good parent. Isn't it embarrassing sometimes when the kids don't obey? And you have to carry that bed, and you carry that shame and guilt that you feel.

Or financial failure. Anybody have financial failure? It's embarrassing, isn't it? You thought you were all that. You thought you were doing great, and then God begins to remove that area of your life.

And you have to carry around that bed. Or a broken marriage. So many broken marriages.

And people come to church, and their spouse isn't with them. And they have to say, where's your spouse? Well, it's not going good right now. The shame, the guilt.

They carry that bed. Addiction. I keep falling.

I keep failing. Anybody relate? I keep falling. I keep failing.

And it's shame. Family members know. People know.

And now you've got to carry, you're still carrying this bed. Can I get rid of this bed? Can I get rid of this bed? I've got so much regret. Why am I still carrying my bed? It's my reminder.

It's my pain. It's my shame. But here's the thing, Jesus says is, yeah, you're still carrying your bed.

You're still carrying your bed, but before you met Me, the bed was carrying you. Big difference. Big difference.

So we need to pray that prayer this morning. Oh God, take me, break me, and make me. The sooner you submit to the refining process, the easier it becomes.

Oh, it's just saying, Lord, refine me. That's why David said, create me a clean heart. Renew a right spirit within me.

Lord, break me. Humble me. And then as a result, He doesn't leave you in that broken state.

He fills you with His Spirit, and then comes tremendous joy and peace. And I love that worship song, out of the ashes I will arise. There's still ashes, but God begins to repair the breach.

He begins to shore in all the damage. He begins to rebuild, and you come back stronger in the power and presence of God, because you know Him as healer. You know Him as deliverer.

You know Him as your strong tower, and you can rejoice in that fact. Oh, God bless the broken road that led me staked to the cross. I don't know about you, but without that broken road, I might not be looking to the cross.

I might not be leaning on the cross. I might not have ever repented. It's in God's love and grace that He breaks us, and He humbles us.

If you're young and you laugh at this message now, trust me, you'll remember it 10 years from now. The mocking tones, God will break out of you as well.

Video: https://sermonindex2.b-cdn.net/_V4sAMS-tk4.mp4

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