

JESS- use this graphic inbetween the slides - for the slides with text just use a solid back ground. xox jes!

REPENT. RECONCILE . REUNITE

15 Respond gently when you are confronted
and you'll defuse the rage of another.
Responding with sharp, cutting words[a] will only make it worse.
Don't you know that being angry
can ruin the testimony of even the wisest of men?[b]

"Go, inquire of the Lord for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found. For great is the wrath of the Lord that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us."

18 But to the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the Lord, thus shall you say to him, Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Regarding the words that you have heard, **19 because your heart was penitent, and you humbled yourself before the Lord**, when you heard how I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and you have torn your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard you, declares the Lord. **20** Therefore, behold, I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace, and your eyes shall not see all the disaster that I will bring upon this place.'" And they brought back word to the king.

HUMILITY HEARS.

Practicing HUMILITY is apart of UNHOOKING other's from pain - just like Jesus said he was sent to do.

You cannot demand righteous judgment UNTIL you have demanded justice for evil.

Is 61:1 -4

The mighty Spirit of Lord Yahweh[a] is *wrapped* around[b] me
because Yahweh has anointed me,[c]
as a messenger to preach good news to the poor.[d]
He sent me to heal the wounds of the brokenhearted,

to tell captives, "You are free,"[e]
and to tell prisoners, "Be free from *your* darkness."[f]

2

I am sent to announce a *new* season[g] of Yahweh's grace[h]
and a time of God's recompense *on his enemies*,[i]
to comfort all who are in sorrow,

3

to strengthen those *crushed by despair* who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful bouquet[j] in the place of ashes,
the oil of bliss[k] instead of tears,[l]
and the mantle of joyous praise[m]
instead of the spirit of heaviness.[n]
Because of this, they will be known as
Mighty Oaks[o] of Righteousness,
planted[p] by Yahweh as a *living* display of his glory.

4

They will restore ruins from long ago
and rebuild what was long devastated.[q]
They will renew ruined cities
and desolations of past generations.

V 4. ESV:

They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

John 8

1 but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. **2** Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. **3** The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst **4** they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. **5** Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" **6** This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. **7** And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." **8** And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. **9** But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. **10** Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" **11** She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."]]

RECONCILE

2 For 5:14

For it is Christ's love that fuels our passion and motivates us,[j] because we are absolutely convinced that he has given his life for all of us. This means all died with him, **15** so that those who live[k] should no longer live self-absorbed lives but lives that are poured out for him—the one who died for us and now lives again. **16** So then, from now on, we have a new perspective that refuses to evaluate people merely by their outward appearances. Behold, everything is fresh and new.... **18** And God has made all things new, and reconciled us to himself, and given us the ministry of reconciling others to God. **19** In other words, it was through the Anointed One that God was shepherding the world, not even keeping records of their transgressions, and he has entrusted to us the ministry of opening the door of reconciliation to God. **20** We are ambassadors of the Anointed One who carry the message of Christ to the world, as though God were tenderly pleading with them directly through our lips.

WE ARE THOSE AMBASSADORS of reconciliation - LISTENING - ENGAGING - REPENTING on behalf of those who have caused them pain is one step in how we can loosen their bonds of injustice and bind up the broken hearted just as Jesus was sent to do.

REUNITE

UNITY requires a listening heart.

RE UNITING requires intentionality.

How can God use you and me to be healing voices in the heart of a hurting nation?

- 1 Continue to LISTEN
- 2 Continue to REPENT on behalf of those who have hurt others by devaluing them based on their color
- 3 Continue to BE A BRIDGE of RECONCILIATION
 - a Stand up for those wronged
 - b Comfort those grieving
 - c PRAY for our nation