WHEN GOD DOESN'T FIX IT
JEANNE MAYO

1. When Jesus didn't "fix it" in the New Testament.

a. In Mark 1:33-34, Jesus had the opportunity to heal many people who came to Him. But instead, He seemed to turn His back on them. Right before this, Jesus had healed Peter's mother-in-law along with many others. Mark records, *"The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases."*

- News spread outside of Capernaum. Early the next morning, sick travelers streamed into town and headed towards Peter's home. The disciples were excitedly seeing their Messiah validate His Personhood. Then someone noticed that JESUS WAS MISSING. They sent out a search party. Where was He? They had to find Him. The crowds were growing restless!

- The disciples finally found Him and exclaimed, *"Everyone is looking for You!"* (Mark 1:37) They expected Jesus to return with them. BUT HIS RESPONSE WAS NOT AT ALL WHAT THEY EXPECTED. Jesus answered, *"Let us go somewhere else - to the nearby villages - so I can preach there also. That is why I have come."* (Mark 1:38)

b. It's hard to understand why Jesus sometimes heals and sometimes doesn't. When it feels as though He's turned His back and walked the other way, it's hard not to be deeply disappointed. Maybe even angry and doubtful. But while we're focused on the unhealed sickness, hurt, or pain in our lives, GOD IS FOCUSED ON A MUCH BIGGER AND MORE _____ _____.

- Something else He is focused on is broken...and it has _____ _____ if it doesn't get fixed.

- The BROKENNESS centers around different aspects of our personal relationship with our Creator. While doctors can heal physical challenges and emotional wounds can be soothed, our BROKEN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD CONTINUES TO CAUSE US PAIN EVEN WHEN OUR OUTER SELF SEEMS TO BE GOING WELL.

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c. Even more than healing us physically, GOD WANTS OUR _____ _____ _____ TO BE _____. Jesus came to heal, but He doesn't always heal the broken things I want fixed. But if I allow Him to, He yearns to heal aspects of my broken relationship with Him.

d. Faith chooses to trust the _____ of God revealed in His Word, even when I don't _____ MY _____.

e. MYTH: God's primary desire is to fix broken _____.

TRUTH: God's primary desire is to FIX AREAS OF _____ **IN MY _____ WITH HIM.**

- What kind of God sneaks away under the cover of night when people are flocking to Him for help? If there's anything we can learn from this passage in Mark, it's that God's ways often are NOT OUR WAYS.
- **A God who leaves physically sick people to preach the Good News to spiritually sick people is a God who CARES MORE ABOUT OUR _____ THAN OUR _____.**
- But why doesn't God do BOTH? After all, He's GOD.
- Once again, I'm forced to make peace with the truth that God's ways are *"above my ways...and His thoughts are above my thoughts."* (Isaiah 55:8-9)
- I am NOT saying that God CAUSES sickness to create positive eternal changes in us. Only the Enemy and our fallen world CAUSES negative things. BUT _____ _____ _____ _____. So He can USE our negative situations to create something very beautiful and eternal from them...if and only If, we are willing to cooperate.
- Our human nature tends to want physical healing over spiritual healing. We often want _____ without _____ _____. We tend to want rescue from our problems _____ than rescue from our humanity.

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2. The unspoken "_____-_____" we often innocently buy into.

a. It's tempting to think that what we do _____ GOD will bring the _____ _____ GOD. If we've done enough good for God...then He will re-pay us with answered prayers and a pain-free life. We don't "say it" but that's often what we inwardly believe.

b. Slowly, I began to realize that my disappointment with God wasn't something He had done TO ME. Instead, it was something I had done TO HIM. I had internally put conditions on our relationship. I had a sense of _____ the thing I banter at today's youth culture about.

- I'm forced to decide again if I REALLY BELIEVE...I mean, REALLY...in HEAVEN
- If so, then Philippians 1:21 will anchor my heart...*"For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."*

3. Let me "_____ _____" one of our favorite Scriptures with some related context.

a. Jeremiah 29:11, *"For I know the plans I have for you, "declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

- King Nebuchadnezzar, the brutal ruler of Babylon, began his final siege against God's people in Jerusalem. He took all the Jews there against their will. And immediately, all of God's people went from FREEDOM to stark SLAVERY. Where was God in all of this?
- Through the Prophet Jeremiah, God revealed that He was the one who ALLOWED His people to be taken into exile in Babylon. And if that news didn't "suck the air out of their tents," He said that the captivity would last 70 years. (Jeremiah 29:10) How could a loving God ever allow such a horrendous thing...let alone for 70 years?

b. PERSONAL OBSERVATION: Our human nature often fails to "_____ _____" during good times. Or at best, we seek Him superficially.

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c. Let's read the rest of the verses from Jeremiah 29 the ones we often leave out or don't keep in context. Jeremiah 29:12-14, *"Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with ALL YOUR HEART I will then be found of you," declares the Lord "And I will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you, declares the Lord "And I will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."*

- If I were God's people, I'd be tempted to say, "God, that's a really dumb plan! Why do I have to go into slavery for 70 long years in horrible conditions, only to then be brought back to the same place where I started?"

d. MYTH: The plan I have for my life is the best one.

TRUTH: God's plans for my life are so much _____...
so much more _____ than mine that I can't even begin to fathom what is really going on in my life.

4. Apparently, my faith must not be "_____ _____."

a. Think of a mom crossing a busy street with her toddler. She takes the child's hand and, at first, the child holds on. But somewhere in the middle of the busy intersection, the energetic toddler lets go and tries to wiggle free. At that moment, the child's safety and well-being are NOT BASED ON HOW HARD THE CHILD CAN HOLD ON. He's already let go. His security is based on the STRENGTH OF HIS MOM'S GRIP AND HOW HARD SHE HANGS ON TO HIM.

b. When I go through tough seasons, the Enemy tries to taunt me by telling me that my "faith isn't strong enough." But I rejoice in God's promise that, *"When I am weak, then is He strong."* (2 Corinthians 12:9-11)

- It's not what I do.
  It's what He does.
  Isn't not how strong my faith is.
  It's how strong my GOD IS.

c. MYTH: The strength of my faith is based on _____ _____ _____ _____.

TRUTH: The strength of my faith is based on the _____

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_ _____ _____ _____.

5. The nasty "_____-_____."

a. I found myself often mulling over, "This season of my life does not look anything like I expected it to."

b. I realized I had used the "E-Word." _____.

c. Laura Story's Grammy-winning song: "BLESSINGS"

"We pray for blessings, we pray for peace;
Comfort for family, protection while we sleep.
We pray for healing, for prosperity;
We pray for Your mighty hand to ease our suffering.
Yet You love us way too much to give us lesser things.

Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops?
What if Your healing comes through tears?
What if a thousand sleepless nights are
What it takes to know You're near?
What if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise?"

d. Personal surrender only occurs when I stop _____ _____ to write my own life-story.

e. God can redeem not only every life, but _____ _____ of our life. That includes every failure, every addiction, every financial crisis, every jealous thought, every painful judgment, every wrong decision, and every ugly reversal. He is the God who promises to give us *"beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness."* (Isaiah 61:3)

f. Remember GOD WASTES NOTHING. He delights to use our _____ to create His miraculous _____. Let Old Testament David encourage you to believe that if you make God the hero of your story, He will _____ even your darkest moments, just as He did David's.

g. MYTH: God can only use my life-story when there is a _____ _____.

TRUTH: God can only use my life-story when I _____

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_____ _____ with the journey.

6. _____ _____

a. Let me give you one more variation of "when God didn't fix it." It's taken from John 11, and it's the story of Lazarus, Mary, and Martha. They were three of Christ's closest friends. You know the story...Lazarus became seriously ill. His sisters sent word to Jesus that they needed Him to come quickly, obviously, desiring Him to heal Lazarus. But strangely enough, it took Jesus four full, long days to show up to their house. By that time, Lazarus was dead. Mary and Martha were wounded that Jesus had let them down.

- Listen to Mary's words: John 11:32, *"When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw Him, she fell at his feet and said, 'Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.'"*

- Mary and Martha were probably a little hurt, confused...even let down. But listen to what Christ said to them: John 11:40, *"Then Jesus said, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the* _____ _____ _____*?'"*

b. Obviously, Lazarus soon shuffled out of his grave, still wrapped up in ills burial clothes. But let's look a little deeper into the account.

c. What was the sisters' role in this miracle? It's the same as OUR PERSONAL ROLE during our own challenging moments: _____...AND _____ _____ TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

d. But beware: God's glory is manifested in many _____ WAYS. For Lazarus, it was divine healing THIS SIDE OF ETERNITY. But for some other great heroes of the faith (i.e. Stephen, John the Beloved, and most all of Christ's disciples), it was healing ON THE OTHER SIDE OF ETERNITY.

e. Remember my definition of TRUE FAITH: Trusting God's _____ even when you cannot fully understand your _____ _____.

- Jesus doesn't promise to raise every human being from the dead like He did Lazarus. But He DOES promise to show us _____

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_____ in every situation.

f. MYTH: If I'm spiritual enough, God will bring my _____ into _____.

TRUTH: I can trust the Lord with my dreams. And sometimes in His wisdom, He may even replace some of my _____ with His much more eternal _____.

7. Conclusions

a. Here's my concluding hope: Even if our circumstances never "get better" this side of eternity, I CAN GET BETTER. And one day in eternity, I can ask all MY questions. But my quiet suspicion is that I REALLY WON'T CARE THEN.

b. To "be better" in my brokenness isn't always to REMOVE the brokenness. Sometimes to "be better" is to remove the selfishness, impatience, and other junk inside of me that becomes more obvious during the broken situation.

c. But whatever the outcome, my course is set. One way or the other, God will one day "fix it." And whatever His wisdom: IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL.

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Answers:

IMPORTANT PICTURE; ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES; RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM; HEALTHY; CHARACTER; UNDERSTAND; CIRCUMSTANCES; THINGS; BROKENNESS; RELATIONSHIP; SOUL; BODY; GOD NEVER WASTES ANYTHING; RESCUE; REDEMPTION; MORE; TRADE-OFF; FOR; FAVOR OF; ENTITLEMENT; MESS UP; SEEK GOD; GRANDER; ETERNAL; STRONG ENOUGH; HOW STRONGLY I BELIEVE; STRENGTH OF MY GOD; E-WORD; EXPECTED; INWARDLY DEMANDING; EVERY SEASON; LOWLIGHTS; HIGHLIGHTS; REDEEM; HAPPY ENDING; FULLY TRUST HIM; RESURRECTED DREAMS; GLORY OF GOD; BELIEVE; BE WITNESSES; DIFFERENT; CHARACTER; CIRCUMSTANCES; HIS GLORY; DREAMS; REALITY; DREAMS; DESTINY

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