



Go for Broke

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 4:7-12 (NKJV)

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. 8 We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed— 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 11 For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So then death is working in us, but life in you.

Introduction

Last week, we ventured into Luke 17 and the story of the 10 lepers who came to Jesus crying out to Him to heal them. At other times, Jesus would heal people on the spot, but this time He sent them away to go show themselves to the priest who would examine them and prove that they are indeed

healed. But when He sent them away, in that moment they were still leprous. But their faith and obedience catalyzed their healing. Jesus told them that their faith had them whole. What was remarkable was that sent them with urgency in the same condition that they came but they were healed "as they went."

Today I want to lean into the prevailing Grace of the Lord Jesus with the title "Go for Broke!" "Go for Broke" is a term that normally means putting everything on the line and risking it all and just going for it! But I want to "redeem" the phrase and use it a different way. For today, "Broke" speaks to our brokenness.

Brokenness is a state that is accompanied by so many different emotions and is often caused by some form of trauma, impact, loss or awful experience. A state of brokenness often leaves us feeling powerless, vulnerable and susceptible. And without a safe space and trustworthy shoulders to lean on, brokenness can lead us to make very poor decisions, entertain skewed reasoning in our minds and develop a lack of belief in anything or anyone. Yet brokenness is something that God is sensitive to and throughout the Scriptures, God positions Himself and draws near to those whose hearts are shattered and whose spirits are broken.

Psalms 34:18 (NKJV)

18 The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart,
And saves such as have a contrite [remorseful] spirit.

Luke records in his gospel that Jesus went into the synagogue and took up the scrolls and began reading a the words of the prophet Isaiah that was written about Him:

Luke 4:18-19 (NKJV)

18 "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."

Jesus was clear about why He came and who He came to draw near to. This prophetic writing about Him gave the framework of His calling and His Divine instructions from the Father. And if we ever have questions about God's ministry priorities, we need to look no further than where His Word was

sent. He was sent for the Broken.

The Scriptures unfold how God responds to our brokenness.

1. He heals it
2. He repairs, restores and sometimes replaces our broken pieces with new
3. He uses it

When God Uses Our Brokenness

We tend to want God to deal with our brokenness in a way that:

- gives us the outcome we're looking for
- gives us the most relief
- gives us the easiest way out

The Apostle Paul gave his own testimony about this when wrote about his own battles with the "thorn in his flesh."

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (NKJV)

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, **"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."** Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

In Paul's experience, though God worked miracles through him and God healed others, God didn't remove Paul's thorn. Lives were changed through his ministry but this one thing stayed the same in his life. As a matter of fact, Paul prayed earnestly to the Lord three times for it to be removed, for him to get relief, release, deliverance and a breakthrough on this 'unidentified' thorn and God didn't say "no" but He did say **"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."**

This dependence on God's sufficiency despite our humanity and frailty seems to be an underlining theme in Paul's writings to the Corinthian Church. Because in the 4th chapter of 2 Corinthians he says:

2 Corinthians 4:7-12 (NKJV)

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and

not of us.

When I think of earthen vessels, I immediately think of clay or glass vessels that have gone through the molding, wetting, burning and furnace stages to be refined and shaped only to be susceptible to being broken. I begin to think about every one of my mom's plates, coffee tables, cups and glasses that I ever broke by accident as a child, and yet those fragile things are the kind of things God chooses to use to show His sufficiency and glory.

When you are feeling fragile remember that:

- God's power is what gets the Glory and not our self-sufficiency, talent or confidence.
- it's about God's all sufficiency, His anointing, His Grace, and our yieldedness to Him.

Go for Broke

"Go for Broke" is no longer about risking everything, gambling it all having nothing to lose. Go for Broke for us means "I've stopped trusting my own completeness."

- It's surrendered faith and not reckless faith
- I'm not moving in self-reliance but I'm moving in complete dependence on the Lord

My brokenness is not a pronouncement that I'm "damaged goods"

My brokenness in Christ means that I am a yielded vessel to Him

I understand that God moves through people who are willing, not finished.

Why would God want to send someone broken into situations that could expose their brokenness?

- that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

Biblical examples of this:

- Moses was a broken man at the backside of the dessert. A prince turned because a wanderer but then became the first prophet. Not because he was healed from his brokenness but because God used him through it
- Job was a rich man who would become a broke man and a broken man and yet God declared him a righteous man even in his brokenness
- David was a man after God's own heart, not because he was perfect; he was broken by moral failure, he abused his power, but his deep repentance drew the affections of God towards his heart
- Gideon was a man broken by fear and self doubt yet God used him to deliver Israel
- Rehab was a woman whose reputation was broken yet God used her to protect Israel's spies, saving her family and placing her in the lineage of Christ Jesus Himself.

- Elijah was a prophet used by God to do powerful signs and wonders yet he was broken by exhaustion, depression and despair. Yet God used him to confront idolatry and restores worship to God in Israel.
- The Samaritan Woman at the well was broken in her relationships, broken in shame yet her encounter with God transformed her to be the first evangelist to her city
- God doesn't use people **in spite of** their brokenness.
- He uses people **through** surrendered brokenness.
- Brokenness doesn't stop the mission.
- Unyieldedness does.
- God is not drawn to your self-sufficiency
- God is not impressed by your performance based faith
- God doesn't apply pressure to your life to "hold it all together"

God invites us to:

- abide in Him
- depend upon Him
- receive peace in Him even if there is no resolution

The Broken Vessel

I'd like to end with a visualization that inspired this message while praying on the message for this week. And I'd like you to close your eyes and see if you can envision what I'm describing.

There's a bone china tea pot. The kind my mother has as a part of a tea set. But at some point it was dropped and a whole section of the side has fallen out. Some of the frame of the tea pot is still there but there's this big gaping hole. The other side of the tea pot is still in tact but it's cracked because of the impact of the drop.

Now, there's two hands taking the broken tea pot and submerging it in water. And the realization is that as long as the tea pot remains in the water, it's completely full, not empty, not leaking and the water fills in every hole and crack while it is submerged.

If taken out, the water leaks out of the big hole and the tea pot cannot hold anything in itself.

The image in your mind may resemble something like this:



When I saw this image in the spirit, I began to wrestle with it because if it were me, I'd want to either glue the teapot back together or just go buy a new one. It's no good to me broken! And that right there is why God is not like man. He doesn't throw us away because we are broken. He doesn't decide not to use us anymore because we're broken. On the contrary, He picks up our fragile frame and He submerges us into His living water. Filling every hole, bridging every gap, filling every crack and completing every incomplete shape. His living water is actively making up the difference.

The teapot is genuinely broken—not symbolically but actually broken.

The structure is compromised

It cannot function as designed on its own

Outside of the water, the teapot cannot contain or maintain fullness by itself anymore

If you've ever been through trauma, failure, sin, disappointment, loss or exposure the teapot aptly describes what you experienced and what you're still experiencing.

"why can't I hold it together like I used to?"

The Lord gently whispers to you that you were never meant to hold it all alone.

Being submerged in the Spirit of God changes everything:

- the cracks don't matter
- the missing section doesn't disqualify the vessel
- the water is filling every place all at once
- the teapot doesn't contain the water; it abides in it
- there is no leak just fullness

And in this image, the broken vessel isn't healed. It's held.

Acts 17:28a (NKJV)

28 for in Him we live and move and have our being,'

Here's another truth that the image shows us:

- if the teapot is lifted out of the water, it doesn't "lose" the water but the water cannot stay because of the hole and cracks
- If we step out of prayer, out of God's Presence, out of humility and abiding in Him, will experience an emptiness again.

John 15:9-11 (NKJV) 9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. 11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

Conclusion

"Go for Broke"

- *I don't feel whole yet.*
- *I don't feel ready yet.*
- *I don't feel qualified yet.*

Jesus' answer to us isn't "*Fix yourself first.*" It's, "*Follow Me.*"