



BRUISED REEDS AND GOSPEL RENEWAL

Bruised Reeds and Gospel Renewal- Matthew 12:9-21

January 2, 2022

For personal reflection/community discussion

Read – Read the passage in its context several times. Read it slow enough to understand what God is saying through it.

- What ideas or words are emphasised, repeated or related in this passage?
- In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage? (Try to summarise these verses in 10 words or less)

Examine – Next, try to understand the specifics of what the passage is communicating.

- What do you notice about God? What has he done/is he doing in these verses?
- What do you learn about Jesus and his gospel from this passage?
- What does it reveal about people?
- How do you think the writer wanted his reader to respond to these words?

Apply - After seeking to understand God's Word in this passage, consider how he intends to use it in your heart and life today.

• Lewis referenced 7 different reasons for bruising. What were they? Can you think of any more? Did any resonate with you?

• To not break us means: to never throw us away, never lose it with us, never be discouraged by us. Which aspect of Christ's response to our brokenness is most precious to you in your current situation?

- During the message, Lewis referred to an article by Alan Noble. At its conclusion, Noble writes;

“What I want to say is that life is harder than most of us will let on, and probably the deepest struggles we’ll face will be silent and petty — things like choosing to get out of bed and get dressed. Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof, but so too is Christ’s Grace. So, get up, when you can, and carry on. Rest your burdens on He who loves you, and turn to the pilgrims alongside you. Some days, rising out of bed is a great act of worship. And when you can’t get up, let those around you bear you up as Christ’s body, always remembering that you are loved. And then, carry that mercy and grace to your neighbor, who needs it no less.”

Spend a moment in quiet reflection upon these words. What emotions rise to the surface? How might it make you pray? Does it make you want to reach out to someone?

- Towards the end of his message, Lewis described the Christian life as ‘encountering God’s power in our weakness’. Is this a part of your experience? Bringing your bruises before him, ask the Lord for his renewal and strength for the day ahead.