

And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head. ⁴ There were some who said to themselves indignantly, “Why was the ointment wasted like that? ⁵ For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.” And they scolded her. ⁶ But Jesus said, “Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. Mark 14:3-6 ESV

In order for the treasure God is forming in us to be seen by the world and to bless God, we must dare to pray, “break me.”

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. 2 Corinthians 4:7 ESV

Why is “break me” a dangerous prayer?

- We’re turning away from sin and trusting God with our past. (v. 3)
- We’re turning toward Jesus and trusting Him with our future. (v. 5)
- We’re following Jesus whether we’re misunderstood or not. (v. 4)

Proximity to Jesus is not the same as closeness with Jesus. (Mark 14:6, 10)

Why is it worth it?

- Your most effective ministry will pour out from your deepest brokenness.
- Jesus is worth it!
- Jesus was broken for us so that we might live for Him.

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.” Luke 22:19

God, break me from anything that keeps me from You.

Let’s Talk About It

In our *Dangerous Prayers* series, we’re learning that prayer isn’t always safe or comfortable — sometimes it’s costly. Praying “break me” means fully surrendering — trusting God with our past, our future, and our reputation, even when others don’t understand. The woman who broke the alabaster jar didn’t hold back—she poured out her most costly treasure in an act of love and surrender. While others called it a waste, Jesus called it beautiful. We pray, “break me”, because the areas where we’ve been broken are often where God brings our greatest impact — and Jesus is worthy of our whole heart.

Mark 14:3-9; Luke 22:19; 2 Corinthians 4:7-10

Discussion questions:

- Which part of the message impacted or challenged you?
- Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-10. When you hear the word “brokenness,” what comes to mind? Have you ever misunderstood it as something negative rather than loving or purposeful from God?
- Read Mark 14:3-9. Both Simon and the woman were in the same room with Jesus — but only one truly worshiped Him. What do you think made her response so different from his? What can you learn and model from her example of extravagant worship?
- How have you seen God use a season of breaking or surrender in your past to bring growth or impact later? Looking back, how did that experience change you or grow your faith?
- Jesus called her offering “beautiful” — not wasteful. What is something costly or personal that may be hard for you to surrender to God right now? What makes it difficult to fully release that to Him? How would your faith change if you cared more about what Jesus sees than what others think?

Take a Step

- Take time this week to pray a dangerous prayer of surrender — even if it feels uncomfortable. Identify one area of your life that you tend to hold back (control, comfort, plans, image, etc.) and intentionally offer it to God. Write it down and say, “God, I trust You with this. Break anything in me that keeps me from being fully Yours.”

Here’s My Prayer

God, thank You that Your breaking is always rooted in love. I surrender every part of my life to You — even the parts I’ve tried to control. Break what needs to be broken, heal what needs to be healed, and use my life for Your purpose. Make my heart fully available to You. In Jesus’ name, amen.