

Congregation: Go Church Centurion
Date: 17 May 2026
Message: The Power of Brokenness

Brokenness is a posture of complete surrender before God. It is the place where you acknowledge that apart from Him you are nothing, and where you fully accept your own insufficiency outside His power and mercy.

David's journey: The transforming power of brokenness

1. Brokenness awakens a deep awareness of God's mercy.

Psalm 51: 1a

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness, according to the multitude of Your tender mercies.

Our instinct is always to defend ourselves. Lord, life out there is hard. Navigating this generation is anything but easy. The mercy of God toward us can never be separated from the depth of His love for us. God's mercy does more than forgive. It comforts, heals wounds, restores dignity, and breathes new hope into the soul.

True brokenness recognises that: "I am approaching a God, a Father who is abounding in mercy."

Psalm 103:8

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.

David knew the breath of God's mercy.

Questions:

- Have you been holding back from asking God for mercy because you fear He won't come to your rescue?
- What shaped your view of God's mercy? Misunderstanding or truth?

2. True brokenness invites God to confront the entire framework of your failure.

Psalm 51: 1b-2

Blot out my transgressions. ²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

David was determined to allow God to deal with the whole architecture of sin once and for all:

Sin - missing the mark. The Hebrew word *ḥaṭṭā'ah* and the Greek *hamartia* both mean to miss the mark, like an arrow falling short of the target (Human weakness, failure to live up to God's holiness, Actions, thoughts, or attitudes that fall short of His will).

Transgression – wilful rebellion. The Hebrew word *pasha* refers to a deliberate crossing of a boundary, a conscious stepping over a line God has drawn (knowing what is right but choosing the opposite).

Iniquity - A bent or twisted inner condition. Fault line.

The Hebrew word *'avon* refers to something crooked, twisted, or perverted. It describes: Patterns of sin, deeper moral distortion within a person or inner bent that produces sinful actions.

Sometimes we come to God in repentance yet hesitate to let Him deal with the deeper layers of our sin.

Psalm 103:12

As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Questions:

- Are you willing to be so vulnerable before God and ask Him to touch the deeper places of your sin?

3. True brokenness is marked by a contrite heart.

Psalm 51:3

For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

David didn't defend himself before Nathan by claiming royal privilege or the right to do whatever he wanted. David did not say to Nathan, "Well, as king I have executive powers, so I can do as I please." David didn't hide behind his crown or appeal to royal prerogative, he didn't say, "As king, I can do what I want." His repentance did not stem out of fear of punishment or concern of future success.

Psalm 51:16

For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it. You do not delight in burnt offering.

David knew there was nothing he could offer to appease God except genuine brokenness. Sadly, when we are confronted about our sin by pastors, friends, or those who genuinely care for us, our first instinct is often defensiveness, endless explanations, and anger. Some even leave the Church.

Psalm 51: 17b

A broken and a contrite heart, these, O God, You will not despise.

There are things that the spirit that God does not despise.

Questions:

- How responsive is your heart when God brings conviction?
- Is your repentance genuine, or is it driven by fear or self-interest?

4. True brokenness recognises that every area of our lives ultimately stands accountable before God.

Psalm 51:4

Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight. That You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.

He repented for having violated God Himself, His Person and His nature. He was ready to face God's judgment and knew that whatever God declared would be just.

Question:

- How often do you acknowledge that our entire lives are lived under God's authority?

5. True brokenness results in inner transformation and restoration.

Psalm 51:6

Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.

Brokenness stimulates a hunger for His truth, the stability of His Word and His ways. Brokenness stirs a desire to walk in God's wisdom and guard it faithfully.

Isaiah 33:6

Wisdom and knowledge will be the stability of your times, and the strength of salvation. The fear of the Lord is His treasure.

Brokenness stirs a deeper longing for God.

Question:

- How intentional are you about embedding His truth and wisdom in your heart?

6. True brokenness calls for the cleansing of the soul, whatever the cost

Psalm 51:7

Purge me with hyssop (heesop), and I shall be clean, wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Hyssop was an herb associated with cleansing and purification and here is symbolically used for cleansing the soul. "Wash" in Hebrew is not the one used for simple cleaning of a dish in water, but rather the washing of clothes by beating and pounding. Brokenness that is a cry to God to remove every hindrance to living a righteous life. Brokenness that is a cry to God to beat out and pound out every odour of pride, selfishness, self-sufficiency, shame, imperfection or inadequacy.

Malachi 3:2-3

2 "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like launderers' soap.

3 He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the Lord an offering in righteousness."

Brokenness is the willing surrender that allows God to purge and purify the soul.

Question:

- **What cost are you willing to embrace in order to walk in true brokenness before God?**

7. True brokenness is sustained by the joy and gladness that God alone gives.

Psalm 51:8

Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice.

Psalm 51:12

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

David recognises that even in brokenness, only God's joy can sustain a crushed spirit. Sometimes, when you are in that place of pain, anguish, and helplessness before God, it is only His joy that can only strengthen you and keep you from breaking or falling part.

Question:

- Do you ever call out to God to let you hear and experience His joy and gladness?
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8. True brokenness results in the renewal of inner person.

Psalm 51:10

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

- David cried out not for pardon, but for purity.
- Not just for acquittal but for acceptance.
- Not just for comfort but for complete cleansing.

Romans 12:2

²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Ephesians 4:23

³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

Ephesians 3:16

that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man.

Ephesians 3:19

to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Lord renew our passion for you, renew our love for you, renew our hope in you and renew our minds.

Question:

When was the last time you cried out to God to create in you a clean heart, and to renew a steadfast spirit within you?

9. True brokenness treasures the presence of God.

Psalm 51:11

Do not cast me away from Your presence and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Psalm 27:4

One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek. That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life. To behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.

David's desire to dwell in God's presence was central to his life.

Psalm 27:8

When You said, "Seek My face". My heart said to You, "Your face, Lord, I will seek."

Question:

- To what lengths are you prepared to go to guard God's presence and the anointing over your life?

10. Brokenness in weakness

2 Corinthians 12:9

⁹And 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.

Isaiah 40:29

He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength.

11. Brokenness and God's help

Psalm 121:1-8

I will lift up my eyes to the hills from whence comes my help? ²My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. ³He will not allow your foot to be moved, He who keeps you will not slumber. ⁴Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵The Lord is your keeper, the Lord is your shade at your right hand. ⁶The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷The Lord shall preserve you from all evil. He shall preserve your soul. ⁸The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore.

12. Brokenness and affliction

Psalm 119:71

It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes.

13. Brokenness and humility

James 4:6

But He gives more grace. Therefore, He says: God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

14. Brokenness in prayer

Luke 18:13

And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!

15. Brokenness and trials

Trials humble and break you.

James 1:2-3

² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

Brokenness and mantles

Apostle Donatus: There are mantles that do not descend upon gifted men, but upon broken men. God is not merely searching for men with talent, eloquence, intelligence, or charisma; He is searching for vessels that have been emptied of self and completely surrendered to His will. In the kingdom of God, gifting may attract men, but brokenness attracts God. Heaven does not entrust eternal weight to men who are still governed by pride, self-glory, ambition, and confidence in the flesh.