

John 5:1-14

Jesus Loves Broken People

It is a regular occurrence in many neighborhoods on a Saturday – Garage sale.

A)Something old – something broken – that is being discarded

B)That is how the world views the broken – something that has lost its value

1)Something to be discarded –

C)But God puts a premium on broken things

Who does Jesus love ? The Broken !

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. 3 In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. 4 For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. 5 Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"

7 The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me."

8 Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." 9 And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked.

A few years back a Nashville newspaper decided to do a special set of articles on people that were suffering from a broken heart.

A)And so they asked local pastors to submit names of pp in the community that they knew had a broken heart.

B)The newspaper planned to reach out to some of these pp and interview them and write their story.

C)One insightful pastor sent to the newspaper the telephone directory for Nashville. ☺

D)In other words, who doesn't have a broken heart to some degree?

If you're a member of the human race, you know what it's like to be broken to some in some way.

A)Maybe you have a broken heart. Perhaps you are broken physically – illness.

B)Perhaps you have been broken relationally – hard to trust people. –

1)Little jaded – live with your guard up

C)It is true the world is full of broken people.

Good news – Jesus declared in Luke 4:18 that God has sent him to heal the broken hearted!

A)"Brokenhearted" is an interesting word, because it literally speaks of rubbing against something.

B)And it was a word used for kindling a fire where you would take two sticks and rub them together

1)so fiercely that you would ignite a flame.

C)So the word came to mean a person who was crushed or broken into pieces.

D)And that's what life does it can tend to rub us the wrong way and rub against us so hard –

1)It has left many people broken hearted!

Malcolm Muggeridge once wrote: "The biggest disease today is the feeling of being unwanted, uncared for, deserted by everybody."

Proverbs 18 asks the question, "The spirit of a man will sustain him in sickness, but who can bear a broken spirit?"

Well, how do you love a broken person?

A)How did Jesus love a broken person? Example in our text today.

B)Set the Scene: This Takes place in the porch area of the Pool of Bethesda

1)A large rectangular pool by the Sheep Gate.

C)In those days when they would bring the sheep into the city, through that gate – and at this pool

1)they would clean them up and get them ready for sacrifice.

Bethesda" is a word that means the house of mercy.

A)That is ironic because it had become a house of misery.

B)A great multitude of hurting people would gather there!

C)One commentator suggests that on any given day you would probably find about 300 people there.

D)But V.1 tells us this was one of the feast times for Israel – required to come to Jerusalem

1)There could be close to 3,000 people lying all over the porches around the pool.

E)Picture that: A mass of hurting people – lying around

1)A sad sight

Why were they there? Why that spot?

A)Well v.4 speaks of the water being stirred by an Angel

B)Whoever was first into the water would be healed?

C)So there is this mass of broken people – sitting around – waiting for the water to be stirred

1)Hoping to be the first one in

D)Get there early – to get a spot closest to the water

So there is this mass of broken, hurting people, and Jesus is going to zero in on one guy.

A)Lets consider this man;

B)We are told in V. 5 that he had an infirmity

1)Now we don't know exactly what that infirmity was.

Infirmity means a debilitating illness.

C)Whatever it was, he was either paralyzed or he was too weak to be able to move freely,

1)because whenever something happened at the pool, he never could get in in time.

D)Everybody else would beat him to the punch.

1)And so he was suffering physically.

Interesting thing about physical ailments, especially chronic disease, is this:

A)It has a way of isolating a person and making them feel so utterly alone.

B)They begin to realize they're unable to do what they used to do.

1)They understand their physical capabilities have been pared way, way down.

C)Then they find that their friends will invite them less and less to functions because of their physical condition 1)and they just feel more and more isolated.

D)He no doubt was suffering mentally/emotionally

We are told his infirmity had been lingering a long time. 38 yrs – close to 4 decades

A)He had to have someone bring him to the pool –

B)Did he come everyday? Several times a week? – He had been there enough to be disappointed often

C)Was he married – did he have kids – was his wife still with him?

When someone is broken by a physical infirmity

A)It can put an enormous amount of pressure on the marriage relationships.

B)75% percent of marriages where there is chronic illness end in divorce.

C)It is very hard and difficult for on the caregiver!

D)So it is possible to assume that this man might have been broken in every way.

How does Jesus love and minister to this man?

A)#1 Jesus saw him! - 5 Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity 38 years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there

B)Out of this huge crowd of broken people Jesus sees one guy.

1)He saw them all, but he zeros in on one person, one solitary human being.

C) First big idea: Loving the Broken begins with seeing the broken –

1) If we are going to love like Jesus we can't ignore the broken

D) Do for one what you wish you could do for all. –

E) Imagine - if we all did for one what we wished we could do for all-

1) we might be able to take care of the all.

But Jesus didn't just see him – he had compassion on him.

A) Jesus always looked at situations and people so differently from others

B) When the multitudes were flocking to see Jesus.

1) Sometimes the disciples were excited by the crowds – everyone is looking for you Jesus

C) Other times they were annoyed because the crowds took from their personal time with him

1) They would say: Can you send them away

D) We are told that when Jesus saw the multitude he was moved w/ compassion – sheep w/out a shepherd

1) He wasn't annoyed – nor was he impressed

E) He was concerned – people wandering aimlessly about life – no direction – no purpose

1) disconnected from God

2nd Big idea - Loving the broken is about HOW we see them –

A) Not a nuisance or a problem or an obstacle

B) Compassion – they are someone who has been made in the image of God – who's broken by life

1) Life's pressure, crushing – has distorted the image

C) But it is still a person – God loves and cares for and his heart breaks for.

1) He is moved with compassion

D) Compassion = a Pain and a stirring in his innermost being –

How do you see broken people?

A) A challenge? – Lord I have no idea how to help them?

B) Do you see them as an inconvenience?

1) A nuisance ?

C) How do you see the broken? Important question for us to answer if we are going to love the broken.

D) Lord break our hearts for what breaks yours!

The problem with many of us is we are nearsighted

A) We cannot see past ourselves our own problems

B) Jordan Verdin – Humanity Showers

How does Jesus love and minister to this man?

➤ #1 Jesus saw him

➤ #2 Jesus had compassion on the man.

A) #3 Jesus asked the man an interesting question V. 6

Do you want to be made well?

B) On the surface this seems like a ridiculous question – Duh? 38yrs suffering

C) "You want to get better?" It almost sounds cruel.

In my 36 years of doing hospital visitations, I have never asked this question.

A) I'd never have the guts to ask that question.

B) Once I took my Son Aaron with me 11 or 12 went to see a guy in our church bad shape –

1) tubes coming out the nose – all over –

C) I think Aaron felt like he needed to say something – You are a really handsome man / smile

But Jesus asked that question and it was appropriate, and here's why. Catch this

A) V.6 tells us "Jesus knew that he had already been in that condition a long time."

B) He had learned to live this way for a long time.

1) Dependent upon others - provision and care

2) Possibly Begging for provision/ hand out

Jesus knew that a change in his condition and circumstances would mean a change in his responsibilities.

A) **One Bible commentator had this insight** in those days in the Middle East, a man who would have been healed could lose a substantial living. – begging

B) **If this man was healed he would have to join a very hard workforce to survive**

1) where he would work for pennies a day as a hard laborer.

C) **So he's a broken man, but if he is healed, he has to take on new responsibilities.**

1) So Jesus asked him, "Do you want to be made well?"

Good question to consider if you are broken

A) **Mean this with all due respect/ but Do you really want to be made well**

B) **It will mean change? Means no longer the victim –**

C) **no more excuses for bad behavior –**

1) Or where others give you a lot of grace because of what you have been through –

D) But that grace can become a license for living a life of excuses and never moving forward

1) **Are you ready to be done with that?**

So this wasn't such a weird question: Do you really want to be made well? – NOT HEALED

A) **Jesus is always interested in the WHOLE MAN**

B) **Not just the Physical problem – but the spiritual problem – we see this clearly as the story unfolds**

7 The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me."

C) **I can't tell you how many people I have talked to who have answered in a similar way:**

1) I have no man/ I haven't found the right person / right program / right mentor / right Church.

D) **I want help for my ... marriage / addiction / bitterness/ Phobias**

1) I have tried to change – tried to get help – but I lack the ability – haven't found the answer!

Hopeless:

A) **Maybe that is you today:** I do not know what your problem is.

B) **Maybe you have tried to stop drinking.**

1) You know that alcohol is ruining your life, your family, your home.

C) You thought you had it under control. You tried to stop but you discovered you could not.

Perhaps you do not see any hope for your marriage.

A) **You have tried to correct things. -Nothing has seemed to work – you are HOPELESS**

"There are no hopeless situations. There are only people who have grown hopeless about them."

Some men only see a hopeless end, but the Christian rejoices in an endless hope!

B) **This brings us to the critical moment of this story.**

1) What did Jesus say to a man who had lost all hope, a man who had given up on himself?

C) **Did he say, "Oh, come on, I'll help you get into the pool the next time the water is stirred "?**

1) No, he did not say that. He did not offer that kind of help. He could have, but he did not.

Did he say, "Hang in there: Positive pep talk

A) **I know one day you will make it into the water - You just need to resurrect the Giant within you**

B) **No, he did not say that either.**

C) **Did he say, "Let's at least make you comfortable.**

1) Let's get you a new mattress to lie on, put a few flowers around you and bring you two meals a day"?

D) **No, he did not. Jesus does not say any of those things - to people who want to hear them from him.**

JESUS GAVE AN INCREDIBLE COMMAND!

8 Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." - ⁹ And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked.

A) Why did Jesus tell him to take up his bed – why not leave it there for someone else.

B) G. Campbell Morgan in his book the great Physician gives this insight "In order to make no provision for a relapse."

C) The man might have said to himself, "I'm healed, but I had better leave my bed here; just in case?"

1) I may need it tomorrow."

D) I can't say for certain if that was the reason – but the principle is true.

¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to gratify its desires. Romans 13:14

When God does a work of deliverance in your life don't hang on to any of the old vices

A) Don't leave the door open for a return

B) Make no provision for the flesh

1) Delete the Phone # / contact

C) Flush the Stash of drugs / bottles of booze / Videos or DVD's

1) Get rid of anything – everything that will tempt your flesh in that area.

D) Tired / depressed / stressed – your flesh is going to seek – relief in those things –

1) **Make no Provision for the flesh –**

I will never forget the night my Dad quit drinking

A) Vivid picture for me as a 12 year old boy –

B) I helped him Pour hundreds of dollars of booze down the sink

1) that filled up a couple of big trash cans w/ the bottles

C) Make no provision for the flesh – RETURN

What Jesus says to this man next – I think supports this idea further

V.9b And that day was the Sabbath. 10 The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed."

A) Religious legalist get all hung up on their rules and ignore how God is working

B) Girls dressed wrong – say something – brand new believers give it time

11 He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.' 12 Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?"

C) Note they don't even ask about him being made well

13 But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place.

⁴ **Afterward Jesus found him in the temple,** and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you."

"Jesus found this man in the temple,

A) That is a wonderful word, "Jesus found him."

B) The Jewish Law required healed person go temple offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving –

1) This man was taking the right steps

C) Jesus found him there

#4 Jesus revealed what he is most concerned about in broken people. See, you have been made well.

Sin no more,

A) This gives insight into the probability that the man's condition was due to some sin in his life.

B) Possible a venereal disease or something occurred in his life that was the result of bad behavior

"See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you."

C) Now What could possibly be worse than thirty-eight years of being broken?

1) You know the answer to that?

D) There's something far worse that could happen-

1) eternal suffering because of unrepentant sin could mean this man could be eternally lost.

E) And though the disease had taken the best years of his life away,

1)unrepentant sin would take his eternity away.

Now just think about this---probably no one had ever spoken to this man like that.

A)No one had ever talked to this man about his sin.

B)"Hey, you don't do that. He's sick. He's an invalid. You don't talk about their sin."

C)But Jesus did. Why? Because he loved him.

1)Because he loved him and he knew there was something far worse.....

D)So, loving the broken people means preaching the unbroken gospel.

It is wonderful and necessary for us to be concerned about a person's physical brokenness

A)But what is even more important than their physical brokenness/ is their souls – eternal destiny.

B)We need to seek to HELP both – the physical need and the spiritual need

1)Sometimes meeting the physical need has to come 1st

C)It opens the door for helping someone be open to the spiritual need.

D)You have to meet their felt need before they will even be ready to listen to their spiritual need.

Jesus provided the way for our Spiritual need to be resolved

A)Sin separated us from God – filled us with guilt and shame – WE TRY TO MASK – RUN FROM

B)Jesus died to pay the price – make a way – sin forgiven guilt and shame removed

1)Rose to impart life – bring us back into relationship with God again.

C)Embrace him

Close Today: Broken?– Jesus can make you well

A)He sees you – He knows your hurts –

B)He says Rise and Walk – believe in his healing power –

1)Process of him working in your life

C)Make no provision for the flesh – get rid of the vices the excuses

1)There is a responsibility that comes with healing

D)He is most concerned about your Soul – eternity

The World discards the broken – but God is drawn to the broken – especially the brokenhearted

A)There is a brokenness that God loves.

B)There is a brokenness that God wants.

¹⁷ The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.

Psalm 51:17

C)He loves when we are humbly broken before God,

1)He moves in our direction with love – forgiveness – healing and restoration