

Spiritual Prep for January 2022 CO Weekend
Dee Beiter

Embrace the Brokenness (Spiritual Preparation Part 1)

Psalm 51: 17 (NIV) – My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

Listen to the Song: ["Sweetly Broken" by Jeremy Riddle](#)

As I sat down and quieted myself to prepare this teaching, I asked the Holy Spirit to help me get out of my own way and hear Him speak. God has a way, when we become quiet before Him, of speaking to us. He led me to this phrase -- "Embrace the Brokenness." I wasn't sure how I was going to explain this – and then a beautiful gift arrived in the form of a book sent to me. It is entitled, "Life is Messy" by Matthew Kelly. It was an answer to prayer. Most of this teaching is quoted directly from his words; I hope it resonates as deeply with you as it did with me.

We are all wounded and broken. Everyone is broken, everyone is wounded. To pretend otherwise is to open ourselves to vast and ongoing deception.

Can something that is broken be put back together in a way that makes it more beautiful than ever before? We believe that once something is broken it can never be as beautiful as it was before. That's not true. It's true that it can never be the same as it was before, but that doesn't mean that it cannot surpass its former self.

As I read the book, it caused me to pause and reflect on how God has used broken people throughout the Bible, and because of their brokenness, it made them exactly the perfect vessel for Him to use. God did not see their brokenness as an impediment to their usefulness or purpose. He embraced that brokenness, and in doing so, showed us that brokenness can be an opportunity. Most of the people we consider heroes and heroines in the Bible are those the world would see as broken. Moses stuttered. David committed adultery. Peter denied Jesus three times. Mary Magdalene is alleged to have been a prostitute. Paul persecuted and killed Christians. And yet, each of these are people whose brokenness led them to surrender to God. Moses led God's people from Israel, and it was to him that the Ten Commandments were given. David wrote some of the most beautiful and heartfelt psalms and it is from the house of David that we trace Jesus' lineage. Peter is the rock upon which the early church was built. Mary Magdalen is the first person to whom our Risen Savior appeared. Paul is one of the most prolific writers in the history of Christianity; his epistles hold a timeless truth that has transcended the centuries and are more relevant than ever today.

The Japanese have a beautiful artform called Kintsugi; it is a form of ceramics. In our culture, if we break a bowl or vase, our first instinct is to throw it out and replace it. This simple act allows us to maintain the illusion that life is not messy. It plays into the delusion that we need to be perfect. But life IS messy, perfection, except in the man of Jesus is a fallacy, and the wisdom of the Japanese art of Kintsugi has much to teach us.

When a vase or bowl is broken, artists gather up the broken pieces and glue them back together. It is the way they put them back together that is steeped in beauty and wisdom. They

mix gold dust in with the glue. They make no effort to hide the cracks. They own them, honor them, even accentuate them by making them golden. They celebrate the cracks as part of their story.

This is a beautiful lesson. The artists don't pretend the vase was never broken. They don't pretend that life is not messy, or that we are not all broken. When we pretend to be someone other than who we are, we hide our true selves in fear and shame – fear of being discovered and shame of not being enough.

We each possess the gold dust needed to glue other people back together, making them more beautiful and loveable than ever. This Weekend, let us be the artists with the gold dust.

Find a quiet place, sit down, close your eyes, acknowledge God's presence, breathe deeply, talk to Him briefly about how life has left you empty, and ask Him to fill you with His Spirit.

Love,
Dee Beiter

As we draw closer to the Weekend, I have begun to embrace my brokenness more, and find beauty in the ashes. I found these words, written by Brittany Allen on the Daily Grace blog to be especially powerful:

“He will use your brokenness to grow you in Christ and draw you closer to Him”.

Listen to ["Sweetly Broken" by Jeremy Riddle](#), again. Let the music and the words wash over you and sink deep into your spirit.

Heavenly Father, help us to cling to the cross. May we be lost for words as we listen to the call of Jesus. He beckons us to be sweetly broken for Him. Let us be broken for You, Lord, sweetly broken and wholly surrendered. Amen.

In His service,
Dee

THEME VERSE:

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