

Brokenness (Part 2) - The Purpose

Charles Stanley

Introduction:

A. Brokenness is God's way of dealing with the self life.

1. Self needs to become submitted to God for us to be fruitful.
2. We can't be controlled by self and obey God effectively.
3. Our mind, emotions, and body must come into submission to God.

B. This is the second message in the series on brokenness.

1. Why does God break us?
2. There are two reasons.

I. God breaks us to bring us to spiritual maturity. (Exodus 2:11-15 and 3:1-4)

A. Maturity involves three things.

1. Change; we cannot hold on to old ideas about God and grow in our understanding of him.
2. Growth.
 - a. We must move toward a full understanding of God.
 - b. Our bodies, will, and emotion must pursue God.
3. Brokenness.
 - a. Our bodies, soul, and will must come into submission to God.
 - b. This does not happen easily.

B. Joseph and Moses are examples of one brought to spiritual maturity.

1. Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers.
 - a. He was falsely accused and sent to prison.
 - b. In time he was exalted and vindicated.
 - c. God used Joseph to provide for his family in Egypt during famine.
 - d. After Joseph died a new Pharaoh arose that didn't know Joseph.

2. Moses was born in this time when Israel is enslaved by this new Pharaoh.
 - a. Moses' mother sent Moses into the Nile to escape death.
 - b. As an adult Moses killed an Egyptian that was beating a Hebrew slave.
 - c. Pharaoh discovers Moses' action and attempts to kill him.
 - d. Moses flees to the back side of the desert shepherding sheep.
3. What is God's process of breaking leaders through whom he can work?
 - a. Moses seemed to have all the skills and position needed to accomplish the task of delivering Israel yet he failed in his own strength.
 - b. God worked in Moses' life the same way he works in our lives.
 - c. He prepared Moses by breaking him of everything he depended on except God.
 - d. God breaks us for his purpose.
 1. He wanted to demonstrate his love to Israel.
 2. He wanted to deliver Israel from Egyptian idolatry.
 3. He wanted to call Israel to himself.
4. Moses had already been convinced that Israel needed deliverance.
 - a. Moses set out to deliver in his own way.
 - b. This way is not God's way and is doomed to failure.
 - c. God began the process of preparing Moses by spiritually maturing him.
 1. This is not great power and wealth and prominence.
 2. This is depending only on God.
 - d. God drove Moses out of Egypt where he lost everything.
 - e. God stripped Moses of all he had.
 - f. God changed Moses' work, his home, his attitude, and his focus.
 - h. Moses had to realize his ways are not God's ways.
 - i. All of our reliance on self is a hindrance to doing God's work.
 - j. Moses became a nobody to become a somebody in God's sight.

5. We are not Moses but we do need to undergo the same breaking that he did.
 - a. We are nothing and God is everything.
 - b. God may give you wealth and prominence but we cannot rely on these.
 - c. When we rely on these God targets them.
6. The task Moses was called to do was monumental.
 - a. Self-dependence would only hinder God.
 - b. It took God 40 years because all resentment, anger, and hostility must go.
 - c. Dependence on God alone is not natural for human beings.
 - d. To return to Egypt in anger and self-confidence would be disastrous.
 - e. Only obedience to God can accomplish God's work.
 - f. God does not often fit into our plans and schedules; we must fit into his.
 - g. Tending sheep Moses learned dependence on God alone.
 - h. We like to set goals and go after them in our own strength.
 - i. This will never work in spiritual undertakings.
 - j. We must depend on God alone.
 - k. God has predestined us to be conformed to the likeness of his son.
 - l. A soul is converted in a moment of time but a saint is made over a lifetime.
 - m. God does not want to break your spirit but only your will.
8. The Christian life is ridding ourselves of all that God puts his finger on.

II. A second purpose for brokenness is supernatural ministry.

- A. Even homemakers need the supernatural power of God.
 1. Moses' mother worked something in to Moses' life he never forgot.
 2. Not many of us know her name but she was important.
 3. Whatever our purpose in life is we need God's supernatural power.
 4. All ministry is supernatural because it is God's work.

- a. A godly business.
 - b. Singing in the choir.
 - c. Preaching the Gospel.
5. Moses' calling was spectacular.
- a. Deliver Israel from Egypt.
 - b. The obstacles were insurmountable.
 - c. When Moses heard God's task he complained that God had the wrong man.
 - d. Going from Egypt across the Red Sea into Sinai into the Promised Land.
 - e. The Law would separate Israel from the surrounding nations.
 - 1. They were not to intermarry.
 - 2. They were not to worship idols.
 - f. Moses' calling would exalt Jehovah above all the other gods.
 - g. Israel would also bring forth the Messiah.
6. God could only accomplish his goals by stripping Moses of all self-confidence.
- a. Moses needed to rely on God the great I am.
 - b. When God calls a person to a task he doesn't give all the details at once.
 - 1. He didn't tell Moses about the ten plagues.
 - 2. He didn't tell him about the parting of the Red Sea.
 - 3. Moses only needed to know that God would be with him.
 - 4. He had only a shepherd's staff and the promise of God.
 - 5. Moses succeeded with God's help.
 - i. Moses didn't deliver Israel.
 - ii. Moses only followed the commands of God.
 - iii. God assumes full responsibility for those who fully obey him.
7. Moses' calling was sacrificial in its demands.
- a. He had to organize a multitude of people.

- b. He had to obey God no matter what.
- c. He had to deal with disobedient people.
- d. Some in the multitude probably never even saw Moses, yet they needed to follow him.
- e. Some even wanted to return to Egypt.
- f. We can weasel out of God's calling and we will either give up or God will set us on the shelf.
- g. Some people would rather be pretty than useful.
- h. We must be willing to be broken in order to succeed in God's calling.
- i. We like God answering our prayers and making things sweet and comfortable but that's not reality.
- j. When the plagues began Moses' faith expanded.
- k. When the Red Sea parted Moses' faith expanded.
- l. God kept them warm in the night and gave them direction in the day.
- m. As Moses walked through the trying circumstances his faith soared.
- n. 2.5 million Hebrews experienced deliverance from slavery as Moses learned dependence on God.
- o. God promises us the same divine power that he promised to Moses.
- p. God will do supernatural things in our lives when we submit to brokenness and learn dependence on God.
- q. Our usefulness to God will be determined by the degree of brokenness in our lives.
- r. Would you like to discover what God has in mind for your life?
- s. It doesn't matter how old we are; Moses was 80 when God called him.
- t. God can use anyone who is broken.
 - 1. He takes the weak and demonstrates his power.
 - 2. What are you holding on to that hinders God from breaking you?
 - 3. What is your area of self-will that hinders God's work in your life?
 - 4. Is it worth missing out on God's work in your life?

5. New vision and power to serve God begins with brokenness.
6. Are you willing to surrender to God's breaking work in your life?
7. Are you willing to say mold me, make me, break me?
8. If we are not willing to surrender why aren't we?
9. Moses learned a great lesson by brokenness.
10. God and God alone can accomplish his work.
11. Rest in God and let him break you.
12. Tell God you want him to break you so the rest of you life

III. Prayer.

Father hover over this fellowship and over all who are listening. It is serious to surrender to you of resist. I pray for those who need to be saved. I pray for those who need to be broken. Help them give up what they're holding on to so that your best can be released in their lives. Let submission and yieldedness prevail. Let God have his way.