

## **Brokenness (Part 3) - The Process**

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### Introduction:

A. Brokenness is the process God uses to break the self life so we are dependent on God.

1. He does not work haphazardly but in a methodical way.

2. Brokenness is for our good though it seems to not be good when we experience it.

B. Today we will use the apostle Peter as our example.

I. Peter learned a lesson at Jesus' trial. (Luke 22:54-62)

A. Peter was gifted in many ways.

1. He was named above the other apostles many times.

2. Peter, James, and John were in the inner circle with Jesus.

3. Jesus changed his name to Rock.

4. God chose him for the same reason he chooses anyone, for his own purposes.

5. In preparing Peter for God's work Peter needed to be broken.

B. This message has four points regarding God bringing our body, soul, and spirits into submission to the Holy Spirit.

1. God targets the area in life where we need to be broken.

a. We are vulnerable in our strengths because we let our guard down there.

b. Our weaknesses we guard.

c. This could be a habit or an attitude or relationship.

d. God operates by seeing what is the most valuable to us.

e. He requires us to surrender this because it's a hindrance.

f. We may not know what this area is but God knows.

g. Whatever I am depending on God wants to remove so we depend only on him.

h. What we cherish God removes.

i. This brings us to a place of neutrality.

j. Even now the Holy Spirit has surfaced this area in your life, the thing you keep dealing with, that keeps disrupting the peace in your life.

k. I wish I could ask you questions and have you respond.

l. Can you identify the area in Peter's life that needed to be broken?

1. Peter once walked on water to go to Jesus. (Matthew 14:29)

2. Once Peter rebuked Jesus for talking of his death. (Matthew 16:22)

3. Peter thought he understood forgiveness but needed to be instructed. (Matthew 18:21)

4. Peter needed to be instructed regarding service by Jesus' example of washing the disciples' feet. (John 13:5)

5. Peter vowed to never forsake Jesus yet Jesus predicted his betrayal. (Matthew 26:31)

6. Peter cut off a slave's ear when Jesus was being arrested. (Luke 22:49)

7. Peter was compulsive and prideful and Jesus saw this as a hindrance to his ministry.

m. Is there a hindrance in your life that is just as pronounced as pride was for Peter?

n. What is in your life that must go before you can become the person God wants you to be?

2. God arranges the circumstances in which we need to be broken.

a. Sometimes God arranges these circumstances actively.

b. Sometimes God allows us to dig our own holes.

c. When Peter asked to come to Jesus on the water Jesus could have spared Peter the failure.

d. The rest of the apostles must have seen the pride in Peter.

e. When Jesus spoke of his death Peter rebuked him.

f. If your employer told you that you act like the devil how would you feel?

g. When Peter refused to allow Jesus to wash his feet Jesus said then Peter would have no part in his ministry.

h. When the people accused Peter of knowing the arrested Jesus he denied it and finally realized his pride and fear.

- i. Jesus took advantage of every opportunity to humble Peter.
  - j. God had to chisel away at Peter.
  - k. Is there something going on in your life that you don't like, and you're wondering what God is up to?
  - l. What we hold on to will crumble if we resist God's breaking.
  - m. God sets up circumstances until we submit.
3. God chooses the tools with which to break us.
- a. We don't like it but God knows what is best.
  - b. These tools are beyond our control.
  - c. God's tools are pointed and sharp, painful.
  - d. We can't tell God what to use.
  - e. God can use his word but he uses others also.
  - f. In Peter's life Jesus used words.
    - a. You're acting like the devil.
    - b. You're going to deny me.
  - g. I'm not saying God kills people to get someone's attention.
  - h. Sometimes God uses tools precious to us to break us.
  - i. We cannot be broken privately.
  - j. God does not cause kids to rebel but he uses their rebellion.
  - k. God doesn't cause businesses to fail but he can use failure to get attention.
  - l. God deals with what is precious to us, using a pruning knife on it.
  - m. God knows your potential and brokenness is the only way to break us.
  - n. God prunes looks, possessions, etc. whatever we love that has seductively become an idol in our lives.
  - o. God sometimes uses our enemies to break us.
  - p. We wonder why things are happening to us and he knows it is good for us.
  - q. Our enemies may be wrong in what they do but they might be right to break us.

4. God controls the pressure to bring brokenness.
  - a. He breaks our stubborn wills, not our spirits.
  - b. My resistance can prolong the process.
  - c. Stubbornness is dangerous.
  - d. Peter didn't want to surrender control when he tried to stop God's plan of redemption, for example.
  - e. We all want to retain control.
  - f. The right attitude is what would Jesus have me do in this situation?
  - g. Money and position is irrelevant.
  - h. When our decision making works along any other line of thought God will target it for brokenness.
  - i. Stubbornness causes more grief.
  - j. Some resist God until God sets them on the shelf.
  - k. God sees our potential when he breaks us.
  - l. Peter was broken when he denied he knew Christ. (Luke 22:49)
    1. Jesus looked at him and Peter remembered the saying of the Lord.
    2. Peter realized his boasting was prideful.
    3. Shame and sorrow took over him.
    4. Jesus took three years to break him.
    5. Peter cried out for forgiveness.
    6. He needed to realize that he couldn't live the Christian life himself.
    7. He failed to support Jesus during his hour of need.
  - m. Peter is the man who wrote of humility later in life. (1 Peter 5:5-6)
    1. Now he is transformed.
    2. Now he was exalted at Pentecost.
    3. Now his strength could be harnessed for use by God.

C. When God wants to drill and skill a man he first breaks him, ruthlessly perfecting those he royally elects in ways only God understands. He bends but never breaks those he uses.

1. God knows what he is about.
2. We don't know but God does.
3. Following humiliation God exalts us at the proper time.

## II. Prayer.

Father we praise you for loving us. You've given us truth in the Scriptures. Thank you for not giving up on us. I pray for the non-saved who don't understand the pain in life. Help them understand your desire to break reliance on anything but Jesus. I pray for believers that they would not blame the hand that holds the knife. Help us understand your love. Help us surrender our self-reliance and trust you completely. Root this message into our hearts that we might be able to praise you in the midst of pain. We humble ourselves before you and ask that you exalt us in due time. We pray in Jesus' name.