

BROKEN

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Introduction

When we look around, we see brokenness everywhere. But somehow, brokenness isn't acceptable; you need to look whole and presentable and fit into a mold. In many places, we see signs that say, "No shoes, no shirt, no service," but Jesus says to come as you are. Come with all of your hurts, weaknesses and addictions, and He will work through that brokenness, not despite it. Jesus doesn't work around our brokenness, He works through it.

Discussion Questions

1. During Jeremiah's ministry (627-586 B.C.), he expressed that the heart is deceitful and desperately corrupt and there is no hope in man (Jeremiah 17). How would you express the current situation our world is in today? What similarities do you see when comparing our society to biblical events?
2. In Jeremiah 18:1-4, The Potter (God) has the power to reshape the clay (Judah, every nation, us). Why are so many resistant to God's impact on their lives? God created us for a purpose ... a plan. Do you believe this? Why? What do you believe God's plan for your life is?
3. Brokenness can come from choosing to stray from God's purpose or from unfortunate circumstances. When and how did you first understand that Jesus was God's plan to fix your brokenness and restore you to wholeness with Him? When and how have you experienced restoration or wholeness from God through an unfortunate circumstance?
4. Doug shared that many of us have felt that God has over promised and under delivered because we believe in promises He never made for our lives. Have you ever felt this way? If so, how did you overcome the situation?
5. 2 Chronicles 7:14 provide a remedy for brokenness. How effectively are you applying the three requirements for healing in your personal life, family, church and society?
6. In our brokenness, God doesn't respond with rejection or destruction (Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 53:4-6). Doug showed a piece of Kitsugi art, which is mended pottery using gold to actually highlight the brokenness of the pottery. Can you think of examples in your life or someone else's where brokenness repaired by God has become a positive rather than a negative?

Conclusion

Jesus is looking out for broken people. On Jesus' worst day, which was on the cross, He was looking out for the two men next to Him and one admitted his brokenness. Psalm 51:17 tell us, "... a broken and contrite heart O God, you will not despise."