THE MYSTERY OF BROKENNESS

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Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
Coordinator

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God bless you!

Topic:
THE MYSTERY OF BROKENNESS
Bible Text: Psalm 51:17

Prayer
Heavenly Father, we bless your name for the gift of life and all that you have done for us. Accept us and accept our thanks in Jesus name. Amen. As we will be going through your word tonight, grant us understanding and grace to be doer of your words in Jesus name. Amen

Bible text: Psalm 51:17: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Study
Praise the Lord. I know that we have been made to understand some elementary things — that is, the fundamentals of brokenness. Before we move ahead, I want us to understand that when we are talking about brokenness, it also has to do with holiness. It has to do with sanctification. Brokenness has to do with total surrender to God. It is connected with purity. Brokenness is a non-negotiable character expected of every child of God. Brokenness is a deep spiritual mystery that underscores the validity of a suitable vessel in the hand of the Almighty God. When we talk about brokenness, we are talking about something deep — something that requires revelation.

Before a man can be broken, that man must understand the mystery behind it. There are mysteries contained in brokenness, and this brokenness determines how suitable we can be for God's use. The Bible says that in a great house there are vessels unto honour and some unto dishonour. This tells us that brokenness

will determine whether we will be vessels unto honour or vessels unto dishonour. A believer can only become a sharp threshing instrument usable by God through experiencing the discipline of brokenness. This means that before God can use a man, that man must have experienced brokenness. If you want to be powerfully used by God, you must have passed through the school of brokenness, and its evidence must be clearly seen in your life. An unbroken believer is like a small thing in the eyes of God, only fit to be cast away. God can only make use of a broken person. Let's look at it this way: when you take a seed of maize, before that seed can produce plenty, it must first fall to the ground and break. When it breaks, something tiny begins to emerge from it. As it grows, it eventually produces fruit. In the end, you may have planted three seeds of maize, yet you are harvesting more than 100 or 200 seeds. This is because the seed had to break before something greater could come forth.

As children of God, if anything good must come out of our lives, we must be broken. One thing about God is that He specializes in making use of broken things. When you have a pot and it gets broken, or a plate, or a cup — to human beings, it is no longer useful. But in the hands of God, that is when it becomes useful. God specializes in using broken vessels. So, what am I saying tonight? It takes a broken seed to produce grains. Yes — it takes a broken seed to produce grains. Then it takes a broken grain to produce bread, and it takes a broken bread to give strength. The reason we receive strength when we eat bread is because that bread has been broken. When we take it in our hands, break it with our mouths, and eat it, it gives us strength.

In the same way, if anybody will receive strength or power in this end time, or in the family of God, such a person must be broken. It is not something to negotiate — it is a must. If a person is not broken, Christ will not be seen in that person. Praise the Lord.

Matthew 11:28–30:
Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. What is Jesus saying here? He is telling us to take His yoke upon us and learn from Him. He says, "Come to me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

This means that when you are broken, you will be gentle. When you are broken, you will be lowly in heart. That is what it means. We have been talking about brokenness over and over. Now it is time for us to really understand deeply what brokenness actually means.

The Meaning of Brokenness:
To have a profound understanding of brokenness, every disciple of Jesus must understand **Galatians 2:20.**

Galatians 2:20:
I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

What is brokenness?
1. Brokenness is to be crucified with Jesus. This means that anyone who is not yet saved — anyone who has not yet crucified himself or herself with Jesus — is not broken. That is the foundation. When we are crucified with Jesus, that is when we are truly broken.

2. Brokenness is **"not I, but Christ."** Look at what Paul said: Nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me. This means that anybody who is broken is a person in whom Christ is living. Such a person is no longer concerned about himself. The matter of "**me, myself, and I**" has been removed from the equation of that person's life. The person is now totally focused on who Christ is — the life of Christ in him. That was the kind of person Paul was. Paul said, "**It is no longer me that is living. Yes, you can see me physically. You knew Saul, and now you know Paul. But the me that you are seeing — it is not me. It is Jesus that you are seeing in me. It is Jesus that is living in me."** So, a broken person is someone who can say categorically, "**Jesus Christ is living in me."**

3. **Brokenness is to have no right and to claim no right before God and man:** This means we cannot hold on to our so-called rights and demand them at all costs. One day, the Holy Spirit told me: "**As children of God, you have no rights in this world."** In the Kingdom of God, there is nothing like "**It is my right!"** If you insist on fighting for your rights in this world, saying, "**I will fight for my right, fight, fight, fight..."** — at the end of the day, you will offend God. The Bible says that Jesus, while praying in **John 17**, said, "Father, these ones You have given unto Me — keep them from the evil one." He also said, "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."

So, if we are not of the world, what kind of rights are we claiming in the world? A broken person will easily let go of his rights when those rights are about to cause a problem. He will simply drop them. That is the mark of a broken life.

I pray the Lord will release that spirit of brokenness upon us in Jesus' name. Amen. Praise the Lord. Praise the living Jesus

So, we must understand that unbrokenness is seen clearly when we look at the case of Saul... God spoke to Samuel and told him to tell Saul to go to the city of the amalekites to wage war, and he was to destroy everything there. **1 Samuel 15:3 (KJV):** "Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass." This was God's command to Saul through the prophet Samuel. What did Saul do? He kept his choice possessions, the good things, the beautiful items, and even some of the animals.

When Samuel came to him and asked**, "Saul, did you do what God commanded?"** Saul replied**, "I did it."** But Samuel said**, "What then is the sound of the sheep and the goats that I hear?"** Saul answered**, "We destroyed everything, but we kept some things to sacrifice to God."** This shows that Saul was not broken. He knew the commandment of God — to destroy everything — but because of covetousness, he took some things for himself, pretending it was for sacrifice. When Samuel told him that what he did was wrong, instead of laying down before Samuel and saying, "**My father, have mercy, I have sinned,"** Saul defended himself, claiming he had the right to do as he pleased.

Saul claimed his right before God. Samuel looked at him with pity and pronounced judgment. Even then, Saul grabbed Samuel's garment, and it tore. Samuel said, "**Just as my garment has torn, so will your kingdom be torn from you."** What caused this? Lack of brokenness. Brokenness is knowing you have no right before God. Look at the difference between Saul and David. When the prophet Nathan came to David and said, "**You are the man**" concerning what he had done, when he slept with Bathsheba and killed Uriah her husband, David did not argue. He

didn't say, "**But I'm the king. Why can't I do what I want?"** Instead, he cried out, "**Have mercy upon me, O God!"** That was the difference between someone who was broken and someone who was unbroken. If Saul had cried out, "**Have mercy, O God, I have made a terrible mistake,"** God would have had mercy on him. But David's immediate repentance was what led to **Psalm 51** being written. **Verse 17** says, The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. So what does this tell us? It means that brokenness is showing no right before God and before man. Praise the Lord.

4. **Brokenness is to surrender your will to God:** In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught us to say, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. This verse is easy to recite, but the reality is that it is not easy to give up one's own will for God's will. That is part of where brokenness is rooted. It is not easy at all. Even the Lord Jesus Christ, while on earth, experienced this at Gethsemane. He told His disciples, "**Wait here for Me**." Then He took Peter, James, and John further, and told them, "**Stay here."** He moved a little further and began to be sorrowful. The Bible says He became deeply sorrowful — even the Lord Jesus Himself.

Are you with me?

Then he had to confess to his disciples, saying, "**My soul is sorrowful even unto death.**" Let's open to **Matthew 26:39**. And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. God bless you. Can you see that? Now, if you go to **verse 37,** And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. He was sorrowful and very heavy; that is, He was deeply distressed. You know why? Nobody is deeply distressed, sorrowful, and heavy without reason. It was because He knew

what was ahead of Him. Now, I am talking about the will. So, yielding total will to God is not something that is easy. Look at what the Bible said about Jesus — He began to be sorrowful and very heavy, He was grieved. Then **verse 38** says, Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death. But despite the fact that the soul of Jesus was so sorrowful at that point, seeing what was ahead of Him — death, the very reason He came into this world — look at what He said in **verse 39:** And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. Remember, He was very sorrowful, so grieved and distressed, looking at the suffering ahead of Him. Yet He said, "**Nevertheless, not as I will, but as Thou wilt."**

This tells us that when we are passing through some situations, some serious distress, the ability to tell God, "**Lord, in this situation, it is not as I will, but let Your will be done,"** is brokenness. **John 6:36-38** says, But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not. All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. I have come not to do my own will. So, the moment we are truly of God, we can say to ourselves, **"I am not doing my own will, it is the will of my Father who is in heaven that I am doing."** That is when we can say we are broken.

In anything we do, it should show that it is not about us, but about Christ. Jesus Christ, who is our perfect example of brokenness, despite the situation and position He found Himself in, still said, **"Not as I will, but Thy will be done."** Praise the Lord. Praise the living Jesus.

5. **It means to be nothing that Christ may be exalted and glorified in your life**: Brokenness is when we understand our position and see ourselves as nothing, taking Christ as all in all. The moment we begin to see ourselves as people who have attained it, we are short of brokenness. In **John 3:30**, we see the case of John the Baptist. The disciples of John came to him and said, "Master, you know that man you baptized? He is now baptizing people." But John replied, He must increase, but I must decrease. That is the lifestyle of someone who is broken — to choose to be nothing so that Christ may be everything.

There is no position in life attained by self-effort; the Bible says no one can receive anything except it be given from above. So, if we are in any position, we must see ourselves as nothing without Christ. When we do things to be recognized instead of to glorify Christ, we show a lack of brokenness. A broken person will not be concerned about what people say of him, but about what people say of Christ.

6. **Brokenness means having nothing that I can lay claim of: Philippians 2:7** says, But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men. Paul illustrates this in **Philippians 3:5-8**: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ. Paul listed his credentials — a pure-blooded Israelite, a Pharisee, a scholar, blameless according to the law. He even said concerning zeal that he persecuted the church. If God were

rewarding zeal in persecuting Christians, Paul would be number one. Yet, after listing all his achievements, he called them rubbish for the sake of gaining Christ. This shows that our education, titles, or positions have nothing to do with our standing with Christ. A professor can still lose his mind; education cannot drive away evil spirits. It is not about grammar or academic brilliance, but about Christ. Anything we have in this world — position, gifts, talents, background — must be counted as rubbish if we will gain Christ. Only when we count all things as loss will we truly value Him, and nothing else will remain for us to boast about.

Can we see Paul? Like in our days today, maybe someone went to school and says, “I attended a private primary school, the best secondary school, then a private university. I did my master’s, then a PhD, and now I am a professor.” Paul was presenting his own credentials. He said he was circumcised on the eighth day, a Hebrew of the Hebrews — that is, a pure-blooded, bona fide Israelite. Concerning the law, he was a Pharisee — a teacher, a scholar, someone who knew the law in detail. In fact, Paul was a lawyer. When it came to righteousness based on the law, he was blameless.

Do you know how many laws there are in the Old Testament? Over 600 laws. Paul said, “When I talk about righteousness from the law, I am blameless,” which means he kept them all. If holiness and heaven depended on the law, Paul would qualify. He even said, “Concerning zeal, I persecuted the church.” If God were to reward those who zealously persecuted Christians, Paul would be number one. Yet, after listing all these achievements, Paul said he counted them as rubbish — and why? So that he might gain Christ. This teaches us that our level of education or earthly achievements have nothing to do with who we are in Christ. You can be a professor and still not be recognized by

Christ. If education was the measure of godliness, why can a professor still lose his mind? Why can witches attack an educated man and he cannot "**grammar**" them away? Because it is not about grammar or education — it is about Christ. Therefore, whatever we have in this world — position, gift, talent, background — we must count it as rubbish if we will truly gain Christ. Only when we see them as nothing will we stop placing value on them for our pride. So, every time I say I'm a PhD, I'm a doctor, I'm a doctor—what rubbish! If we are to look at what Paul was saying, and we look at the life of Paul, if Paul were to be in our generation, he was a serious scholar.

And as a scholar, if he were to be a writer, he would have taken that award—Nobel Laureate. He would have gotten a Nobel Laureate. Apart from that, he would have been called a professor. If there is something higher than professor, Paul would have gotten it. But let us hear Paul: all these things that have no eternal value, all this rubbish, they have no eternal value. What am I wasting my life on? He put everything aside—rubbish—because he found something precious, something far greater than those things he was holding on to, something in Christ Jesus: the life of Christ. He said, "**that I may gain Christ,"** which means these things could have stopped him, so he put them aside.

A broken person is the one who can put away those things that can stop him from having the life of Christ, from carrying Christ everywhere, from having the nature of Christ in full. You put them aside and say, "**These things cannot stop me."** Just like that man, blind Bartimaeus, who, when Jesus called him, threw away his garment. For some people, the garment that will stop them from showcasing the life of Christ is pride—the position, the status—that will keep them from gaining Christ. That proves they are unbroken.

Today, the reason why the body of Christ is powerless is because people are no longer broken. Brokenness means having nothing you can lay claim to as your own. People pride themselves in building houses, owning cars, and achieving academic feats. It is not bad to have these things, but when we prioritize them above Christ, they become gods to us, making us unbroken and unprepared for the kingdom of God.

7. **Brokenness is to have killed the power of self-indulgence—excessive or uncontrolled gratification:** When you cannot restrain your appetite for food, sleep, drinks, sex, and other desires, you remain unbroken. But when you are broken, you can control yourself. Without brokenness, there is no spiritual power. Many are powerless because they are unbroken. This self-indulgence can be as small as being unable to do without lipstick or makeup, which may even become a channel for demonic access. It can be an uncontrolled desire for worldliness or sensuality. It could be a lecturer sleeping with a student and dying shamefully, simply because he lacked the power to control himself. Brokenness gives you the power to say "**No**" to the flesh.

As Paul said in **1 Corinthians 9:27**, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." Paul understood self-indulgence and subjected his flesh. As children of God who want to carry fire in this end time, we must put our flesh under subjection. Brokenness is to have completely dethroned the self-life. Some people are concerned only about themselves. If money is to be shared at work, they aim to take the largest share. Self is the reason some do money rituals or harm others—selfish desire for a better life, riches, jets, and fame. But when a person is broken, they dethrone self and enthrone Christ,

realizing self has nothing good to offer. As **Romans 8:13** says, "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." The self-life is living after the flesh, which leads to death. May we not die in Jesus' name.

8. **Brokenness is to kill the power of independence and put on the yoke of total dependence on God:** Many today want to live independently, without guidance, according to their own will, rather than God's. But the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh. Independent living makes people reject God's commands, calling them "**too hard.**" A broken person understands that as a child of God, you cannot live an unrestrained life. But today, we have "**anyhow**" Christians who live as they please, shunning brokenness. We must depend totally on God, not on the arm of flesh. When we face situations, instead of relying on our own knowledge, we must trust Him. I pray the Lord will release the spirit of brokenness upon us in Jesus' name. Praise the Lord.

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

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