



November Sermon Series: Dangerous Prayers

Message #2: Break Me

Getting the Nod

Video: [Cheryl Binegar Video / Live Continuation](#)

I don't know of one believer ... or one person who willingly prayed the dangerous prayer...

BREAK ME. Cheryl didn't start out on January 1st of this year praying for these challenges and losses to come her way! In fact, **the typical prayer list is ...** (bless me; protect my family today; fix something; give me favor; guide me; cover me; save my lost loved ones; etc...) No, "BREAK ME" isn't the first thing we pray for. Brokenness is never fun. Like the car broken down at the red light...

Illustration of the Broken Down Car: A man's car was held up by a broken down car in front of him. He just sat there and sounded the horn while the woman driver in front was desperately trying to start her car. He sounded the horn even more impatiently and the lady walked round to his car and said sweetly, "Why don't we change places? I'll sound the horn and you can start the car!"

BREAK ME is a dangerous prayer because of what it initiates and what outcomes it will bring! None of us want to be broken... but all truly-devoted followers of Jesus Christ want to be used by Him and in some way all of us need to pray this prayer for the ultimate outcome.

Every person who goes through brokenness knows that it is much like a school. Like sitting in a classroom where lessons are taught daily and questions are asked regularly, and our pain and our lives are the topic of the class. The answers we long for are only offered in small chunks... not enough information to make sense of the brokenness, but just enough to hang on and not give up.

Here's what God wants us to know: When we are broken and come desperately before God, **Jesus takes the broken pieces of our lives and unexpectedly transforms** what many people in the world might cast out as trash and creates a thing of beauty that allows his light to shine through. This is called a mosaic. **Show the mosaic art from the Philippines... God can mend a broken heart if He has all the pieces.**

Secondly, God is not insensitive to our brokenness. He wept at Lazarus' grave as Lazarus' sisters wept over the loss. And when Stephen was being stoned... the Bible says that Christ stood up at the right hand of His Father in heaven out of concern.

Transition: Many of us remember examples of brokenness in the Bible...

Connecting Us

Examples of Brokenness in the Bible:

- **The woman with the alabaster jar** who broke it so Jesus could be anointed for His death.
- **When Jesus fed the 5,000 families with a few loaves and fishes.** He gave thanks and broke the bread, so they could eat.
- **When Jacob wrestled with the angel and the angel broke his hip...** but Jacob wouldn't let go.
- **When Peter denied Jesus and the rooster crowed...** he left broken and shamed.
- **When Jesus served the Last Supper and told His disciples to eat the bread...** which was a symbol of Jesus' body... broken for them.

In all five examples, brokenness was initiated... but blessing was the outcome!!

The Outcomes:

- **The broken alabaster box of perfume** became a reminder to Jesus on the cross of why He came.
- **The breaking of bread** initiated the miracle of feeding tens of thousands with one little boy's lunch box.
- **Jacob's broken hip** reminded him daily of the moment God blessed him.
- **The broken shame of Peter** would be the fuel of his ministry and the forgiveness of his Master.
- **And when Jesus' body was broken...** it provided for all who would call on His name the eternal life He promised in John 3:16-17.

Illustration of Broken Things: God does not see as man sees. He placed high premium on broken things. He prefers to deal and bless only things and people that are broken. However, when compared to man, the gap is huge. Man prefers things that are not broken and places value on such. Once anything is broken, man's nature is to discard and trash them. Things like broken furniture, mirror, plates, are trashed by men because his nature abhors broken things. But God, however, desires to bring man closer to Himself, hence He uses the broken so they can be examples of those He will bless.

Transition: Our text for the day is found in Luke's Gospel, chapter 22. It's the Last Supper, the night before Jesus will be crucified, and Jesus is teaching powerful lessons to His disciples. Let's read it...

What's God's Take on This?

NKJV | Lk 22:19 **And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."**

The Powerful Lessons Are:

- The greatest leadership is humble leadership.
- The most effective disciple is the one that is a servant.
- Remembering broken bread and a cup is non-negotiable for their future.
- When He broke the bread and served the cup... He prayed over it... and told the 12 to do the same... to be the same... **and being the same as Jesus is a matter of a willingness to be broken so we can be used. How far are we willing to go to be used by our Heavenly Father?**

There's a danger in praying this prayer! This is not a popular prayer! For those who follow the version of Christianity that believes... **"God always desires to make your life better and happier!" Try again. God always desires to make us holy and effective children... because the world is lost."**

The Danger of Praying Break Me:

1. **To be broken is agonizing, but the other side can be amazing.**
 - On the other side of brokenness is greater intimacy!

- This is where we learn the lessons that people can let you down... churches can let you down... but God will leave you or forsake you!
- **Illustration of My Life's Brokenness and My Mother's Graciousness:** After I had made a mess of my life in the Air Force and had faced military punishment... it was the love of my brother and mother that was lavished out on me and where my concept of God dramatically changed!!! I found out through them that God was the most trustworthy!!
- NLT | Heb 13:5 **Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you."**
- **A Very Wise Man Once Said to Me:** "Show me a man greatly used by God, and I will show you a man who has been greatly broken."
- **Application:** Praying this dangerous prayer goes against our consumerism culture in America. So many of us will only attend the church where our favorite music is played; our favorite style of preaching is given; and where there are no challenges or no calls to go somewhere for Jesus. God will use anyone faithful in their brokenness!!
- **Jesus wants whole mind, heart, soul, and strength.** Because it is then that He can lavish on us His marvelous love... and sometimes brokenness is the only way He can get our attention!!!

2. If you want to be like Christ, being broken might be the price.

- Jesus was broken and poured out for us.
- NLT | Jn 6:35 **Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.** But it was broken so we could taste it.
- NLT | 1 Co 11:25 **In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it."** But it had to be poured out for us to know His salvation!!
- **Application:** Praying this dangerous prayer in the midst of our sorrows and brokenness might be answered in a willingness to become lives wholly dedicated to God's will and purposes. The Great Commission is never the goal of the consumers who sit in pews... it is reached when the follower of Christ prays "BREAK ME TO USE ME!!!"
- **Illustration of Winston Churchill's Painful Price:** During World War II, Winston Churchill was forced to make a painful choice. The British secret service had broken the Nazi code and informed Churchill that the Germans were going to bomb Coventry. He had two alternatives: (1) evacuate the citizens and save hundreds of lives at the expense of indicating to the Germans that the code was broken; or (2) take no action, which would kill hundreds but keep the information flowing and possibly save many more lives. Churchill had to choose and followed the second course. (Klyne Snodgrass, **Between Two Truths - Living with Biblical Tensions, 1990, Zondervan Publishing House, p. 179.**)
- Jesus chose to die... so all of us could live. This decision would lead to most of the disciples also giving their lives... but humanity is better for it.

3. The answer to managing brokenness is multiplying surrenders.

- Cheryl Binegar and her family has had to live one day at a time... one test at a time... and offer many surrenders along the way.

- **Paul had to surrender daily:** NLT | 1 Co 15:31 **For I swear, dear brothers and sisters, that I face death daily. This is as certain as my pride in what Christ Jesus our Lord has done in you.**
- Brokenness isn't a one-time event...it is a lifetime of choosing to surrender in both good times and bad.
- **Application:** To those who would choose to pray this prayer... it is not a losing endeavor... it is an enlistment and surrender into the winning army of eternity.
- **Illustration of My Call:** The year I was wrestling with God about my call to pastoring and preaching, I was asked to preach to fill in a vacancy at the last moment. I preached... and felt uncomfortable. But feeling I had let God down... I told the Lord I will do it one more time to make up for the train wreck I had before. It was several weeks before I was given the chance. I started to feel the tug of the Holy Spirit but was unsure of the tug. That's when I went to my brother Steve to ask his advice. It turned out to be the most pivotal advice I would receive. Steve told me, "Try the door knob. If it opens, you'll know. If it doesn't, it never was." So, when the next opportunity came, I surrendered and tried the knob... and God blessed my second sermon profoundly.

4. **Life's greatest breakings often leads to God's greatest blessings.**

- "God uses broken things. It takes broken soil to produce a crop, broken clouds to give rain, broken grain to give bread, broken bread to give strength. It is the broken alabaster box that gives forth perfume... it is Peter, weeping bitterly, who returns to greater power than ever." (Quote by Vance Havner)
- NKJV | Php 4:13 **I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**
- **Application:** It is in praying this prayer that we find His strength.

5. **God will never waste a hurt.**

- Whatever hurt or brokenness you have today... God won't let us waste it.

Transition: There was a violinist that ordered a new violin...

Drawing the Net

Final Illustration: A famous violinist once ordered a manufacturer to make for him the very best instrument his skilled fingers could produce. But when the violin was delivered, its tone did not please the sensitive artist. In indignation he smashed it. The disheartened dealer tried to atone for his failure. Carefully gathering the broken pieces, he remade the violin and sent it back to the fastidious musician. This time the master was charmed with the tone, and was surprised to learn that the violin was the very one he had broken to bits. "I have made it out of the fragments," revealed the proud manufacturer. **Likewise, God can take the fragments of the life shattered by sinful indulgence, and, putting its pieces together, He can produce in the regenerated soul sweet melodies.**-By Ashely G. Emmer

It seemed appropriate today to remember how Jesus allowed Himself to be broken and poured out for us!!!! None of us who call Him Lord can ever forget that truth. But I want to add this moment to not only partake of the sacrament... but to provide for some of you a chance to pray a very dangerous prayer... but a world changing prayer. It's not about a break that's bad... but a break that's blessed.