

## Once Broken-Becoming a Vessel of Glory Devotional

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Easter 2022

Well friends here we are again. Seems like only a short time ago we had been sharing together another one. Oh wait, we were. The topic was on Unconditional Obedience. In that vein I would like to continue sharing on this last statement from it. "God will bind us up and care for us (clean us up, feed us, nurture us as He fulfills our destiny on His terms). Obeying God breeds endless possibilities." While in communion with the Holy Spirit, I felt a prompting deep within me ask this "when did the earth itself which once was broken, void, chaotic ever stop fulfilling its destiny to be a vessel of My glory? From the beginning My intention was always for it to be your inheritance!"

Ok Y'all this got me excited. Let's talk about how this looks for us. As God breathed life into the darkness, it did not have to figure out how to complete that task. It just knew how. He made us in His image and His likeness (Genesis 1:26-28) and our job is to subdue the earth. His word says, "*He blesses the meek, and they will inherit the earth.*" (Matthew 5:5). We need to tap into this knowing of what to do when we feel subdued no matter the source. Amen. Whether you feel the enemy is coming like a flood or very subtly, maybe your trials in life are too much or your flesh is consuming your life dragging you down. It could be you're feeling let down by God or someone you respect very much whatever the case. We all have areas we feel bound, cracked, exhausted, overworked, worried, disappointed, ungrateful, oppressed, or fearful.

Why is this? We refuse to be totally broken out of our own limitations in those places. I myself am guilty of this. I don't write about things the Breaker doesn't break me out of first. He's trying to break me a fear of lack. What is that you might asking? Basically it is a persistent feeling of not enoughness-feelings of inadequate, fear of going without or a lack of self-confidence. Breaking out is not fun or easy for any of us, often it is messy, painful, even fierce. The results after though, reveal a treasured vessel of His imparted glory whose life matches their God given purpose planned before we were even born. 2 Corinthians 4:7 (AMP) reads, *but we have this precious treasure [the good news about salvation] in [unworthy] earthen vessels [of human frailty], so that the grandeur and surpassing greatness of the power will be [shown to be] from God [His sufficiency] and not from ourselves.* It is our job to obey and walk that out and shine His glory through the cracks. Passion week prepared Jesus to be broken, once and for all, for the ultimate prison break His and ours.

Yes, we get to use an acrostic again. This time it is VESSELS and that vessel is you! I'm going to define this word fairly quickly. It a receptive container for whom God calls and uses as one. I want to read you a quote from God Builds Disciples," the limits of what God can do where we are broken is endless. "Listen to Isaiah 52:11-12 from the Message version, *Out of here! Out of here! Leave this place. Don't look back. Don't contaminate yourselves with plunder. Just leave but leave clean. Purify yourselves in the process of worship carrying the holy vessels of God. You don't need to hurry. You're not running from anybody. God is leading you out of here, and the God of Israel is your rear guard.* I felt the Holy Spirit say, I want to pour into you so you can be poured out. There is no pouring without first being willing to receive.

Day 1- READ Psalms 31:12; Isaiah 30:9-15; Matthew 21:12-19

What makes us unwilling to receive from the Lord? We're not vulnerable. This is the first acrostic letter V. for vulnerable. I believe the summary of Isaiah 30 will describe it for you.: *You rejected My Word. Trusting and relying on what's comfortable. This sin will collapse on you like pottery which will be smashed to smithereens. Not even its pieces will be of any use even to take coal for a fire or scoop water. Return and rest in Me to be saved. Your strength is in quiet respite and confident trust. But You were not willing.* Sometimes its impossible to get out of own head unless

we share it with God and others! Russ Levenson Jr. states "it's because we are somewhere else bound up clutching to ourselves, precious cargo of our burdens, baggage, unwilling to let go of them or ourselves."

There are many types of vessels which need to be vulnerable/ broken for use. Just to name a few: glowsticks, horses before they can be ridden, pistachios and eggs need cracked before consumption, a pinata for the goodies, or water balloons. So must we like David said in (Psalms 31:12) *I am forgotten as a dead man, I am a broken vessel.* Reception can only be encountered where we begin to empty and die to ourselves and be vulnerable to open up to the realm of possible. (Matthew 19:26)

Jesus was vulnerable to His disciples and others who he had compassion for and ministered to. I'm not even sure if they even knew it. I feel like they were too worried about what was going to happen to Him that they could have received so much more from Him in His last days. He displayed his emotional vulnerability the first day of Holy Week turning the tables of the moneychangers over. (Matthew 12:12-19). They were offering ritual sacrifices but living in disobedience. He was vulnerable to God (Hebrews 5:7) *offering up prayers with loud tears to the one who could save him from death.*

Thank God the Holy Spirit helps us with our vulnerabilities. Brean Brown says, " Staying vulnerable is a risk of being honest. It's a risk we have to take if we want to experience connection." With who? The Holy Spirit, others and our own self. This is the catalyst for your greatest victory! Without brokenness there is no flexible container to hold the glory He longs to impart through us. In the introduction I asked a question: What areas are you resisting the Lords prompting for you to break out of? Is one of them due to ritual offerings or self-sacrifice but still we lack obeying God? Where are you willing to confess, you're weak physically spiritually or emotionally? Do You feel Him prodding some deep place right now will you defend yourself, push Him away, ignore Him or draw boldly in faith toward His strength instead?

Prayer: Father I confess I don't want to be vulnerable because I am afraid of opening myself up to pain again. I know if I continue to remain inflexible, resistant and unreceptive to risks there is no experiencing great connection with You, others and even what's in myself. I am ignoring Your prompting. But that stops now, I ask Your forgiveness and ask You to BREAK ME where I still am ritualistic in weak places in me physically, spiritually and emotionally! For I have no desire to be unfit to contain everything that You are. In Jesus name, Amen.

Day 2

READ 2 Kings 4:1-6 ; Romans 4:17; Luke 1:53;

At this stage we are and Empty which is the second letter E is our acrostic. Faith and obedience makes us ready to receive what needs to be filled in our emptiness. Calling forth what isn't as if it already is.(Romans 4:17) Let's look at Elisha for a minute and what God did through the miracle of many borrowed empty containers. He told the widow to ask ALL her neighbors for empty vessels. As she poured, they continued to fill up from the little oil she had put in plus her faith. Her sons were about to be sold as slaves if God did not do something right? She was desperate, empty, and hopeless. *Elisha asked her "what do you have or [value] in the house? She said, Nothing except... the oil!!!* God values highly empty vessels. The Holy Spirit has done a lot of miracles through them. Water was turned into wine. A manger beheld the Holy child. A boy with a basket of loaves and fish. Luke 1:53 (AMP) reads, *He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he has sent him away empty.*

Charles Spurgeon states, "A full Christ is for empty sinners, for emptied sinners only. It's not our emptiness but our fullness which can hinder the outgoings of free grace." The Holy Spirit will simply use what and who is available! David Gudzik says, " when vessels are gathered in faith, assembled in order, and ready to receive like the widow, they

will see God work among them.” Make sure you are emptied of what should no longer belong to you but to the Lord. The Holy Spirit longs for you to be full in His presence. His anointing will follow, and so will His glory manifest.

*Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness shall be filled. (Matthew 5:6)*

*Die to yourself daily. (1 Corinthians 15:31)*

*Continue to be filled with the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18)*

Will you make yourself available to be filled up so He can pour in and pour out through you? Are you fit for filling?

How did Jesus empty Himself? Don't you think He felt alone many times, sorrowful, isolated, misunderstood ... yet (Philippians 2:5-10) *He set aside privileges of deity to become human.* Meaning He asked for no special favors and lived an obedient life to die a selfless death. He emptied Himself into humanity. He did not make Himself nothing, and does not do that with us. He won't let us stay worthless. He died for that for us. He can only fill what has been given away. Taking us to a place where apart from Him we are not satisfied.

Prayer: Father God You have done so many miracles through empty vessels. Forgive me when I Have not obeyed, when I been faithless in my walk with you by not making myself available. EMPTY ME of what only should belong to you! Make me fit for filling. For I am longing to be one of the gathered in faith, assembled in order, and ready to receive like the widow, which You value most highly! You are enough for me, pour in every part of my being so Your Spirit can pour out through me. In Jesus name. Amen.

Day 3

READ Psalms 63:1-8

The third letter is S for Satisfied. A satisfied vessel is one who expresses without restraint, when it comes to God that is. What does a satisfied vessel long for? All God is! Searching for Him every day until you find Him and connect!!! Psalms 63:1 explains this, (read all 8 verses though it's so good). *O God You are my God with my deepest longing I will seek You; (vs 5) You satisfy me more than the richest feast.* What happens at a feast or our modern-day buffet? We load up until we are full and results in being poured out. Here's some other verse to wet your Spiritual appetite:

*(Philippians 2:17) (NLT) But I will rejoice, even if I lose my life, pouring it out like a liquid offering to God. Just like your faithful service is an offering to God.*

*(Proverbs 1:23) (Message) Come back to your senses and be restored to reality. Don't think about refusing my rebuke! Don't you know that I'm ready to pour out my spirit of wisdom upon you. And bring to you the revelation of my words that will make your heart wise?*

*(Isaiah 44:3) I will pour water on that which is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground, my spirit on thy seed and my blessing upon your offspring.*

*(Psalms 107:8) You satisfy the thirsty soul, and the hungry soul he has filled with what is good.*

*(Psalms 17:15) (NLT) Because I am righteous, I will see you. When I awake, I will see you face to face and be satisfied.*

John Piper describes it this way, " God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him." Being satisfied is not yearning for anything else. For our Father alone is more than enough. Amen. It's the place of abiding. In John 15:4 (AMP) *remain in me and I remain in you, no branch can bear fruit by itself without remaining in the vine*

*neither can you [ bear fruit producing evidence of your faith]. Do you believe He's more than enough for you? It will be revealed in your actively obeying Him in your actions. When life is hard, challenging, long, exhausting, frustrating, daunting, boring, dissatisfying...you can still allow Him to satisfy all.*

Jesus was satisfied with doing the will of His father (John 4:34). *Not my will but thy will be done* (Luke 24:42). It sustained Him. He was completely given set apart as holy mature in wisdom and favored by His Father. I want you to think about Passion week timeline, there was one more day until Our Savior would be arrested for being obedient to the end. In the last chapter of the Drawing Near Bible Study John Bevere asks a question "are we as faithful to our God as He is to us or as committed to Him as He is to us?" Jesus was, with all of His being. Are we?

Prayer: Lord, you only can satisfy life's challenges that are hard, long, exhausting, frustrating, daunting, boring and dissatisfying. I confess my deep sorrow of not being as committed or as faithful as You have so graciously have been to me. I don't want to forget what this feels like, when I do, remind me. Teach me Holy Spirit what it should feel like to Yearn for no one or nothing but Jesus to be completely given. I am so grateful You are always there for me, and totally committed. All-in. In Jesus name, Amen.

Day 4

READ Hebrews; 1:1-3,11:1-6

The second S in our acrostic stands for sanctified. A sanctified vessel is one that is set apart for God's purpose. We must choose to take on His nature and not let go. Our Lord gave substance to the void when He created the earth and He gives the same to us when we come to him in faith. (Hebrews 11:1) *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence if things not seen.* He gives us God-sense (Substance) when we grab hold by abiding in Him, as we discussed yesterday. In Greek substance is 'hupostasis', which means His essential nature places our faith under conviction. It is the very sub-structure, proof, evidence where we believe God and what He says he going to do or we don't. Also, this gives substance to His life essence and the manifestations of the Holy Spirit. It's a work God performs as a part of us being connected to Christ by His Spirit, an abundant life (John 10:10). Our part is the practical side, walking out applied obedience. Taking God's Word and making it work in our daily lives.

This step transitions us from being a vessel God can use, fill, and pour out to becoming His mature one. We progress from sins penalty breaking us. Then to the power of sin having no power over us because we are totally satisfied in Him and not in ourselves or something else. We are then led to choose what we do or don't give power to and to whom, a vessel empowered is flesh dethroned... Do you remember the song "There is none like You"? It simply says, "There is none like You. Noone else can touch my heart like You do. I could wait for all eternity long and find there is none like You."

On the Holy week timeline, Jesus has the Last Supper with His disciples and washes their feet. I believe this was a transitional time for him to separate Himself so He could make the journey from humanity back to Divinity. Pulling himself away from them physically, emotionally, down to just three. Even drawing away spiritually but only for a short time. Much in the same way He entered the world naked and bloody, He will leave it and them the same, sacrificially. One of the last things He shared with them comes from John 14:16-17. It reads, *I will ask the Father and He will give you another advocate to help and be with you forever-the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him because it does not know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.*

Prayer: Thank you God for seeing my substance before anyone else. You Knew me first and You will be the last. I'm grabbing on to Your nature which is essential to place my faith under conviction, where I choose to believe what You say you would do and separates me from doubt. I admit I normally don't think about giving substance to Your life essence and how You Holy Spirit desire to manifest through me. I ask You to be my aid, to guide me in this

transition to maturity in You, where my flesh is dethroned, forming me into a sacrificially empowered vessel. In Jesus name, Amen.

Day 5

READ Acts 1:8, 2: 1-4; John 16:7-8

Today is Good Friday dear friends! Stop and think about Jesus final minutes on the cross for a moment. He had been betrayed, abandoned by His closest friends, beaten and profusely mangled reckoning Him unrecognizable. Thorns pierced in His head until it throbbed. With nail driven hands and feet, His pain was excruciating, yet He bore it for you and me. The land darkens as sunlight fails. The veil in the temple is rent from top to bottom. He speaks these last words were *"Father, into your hands, I commit my spirit! and having said this He breathed His last."* (Luke 23:46) Committing is a form of obedience that goes beyond giving. It's been tested, weighed, and not found wanting, which positions us to be empowered. This is our 5<sup>th</sup> acrostic. letter E for Empowered.

Yesterday, we left off with our Savior telling His closest friends what would happen and bidding them farewell. He left them a promise, to wait until The Holy Spirit gave them power to be His witnesses on the earth. It was for their advantage because the One sent was just like Jesus. Most of what He told them, still was beyond their realm of comprehension. Some like Peter would even try to stop it from happening. Yet He goes to a place of ultimate sacrifice, the Cross. This is the epitome of Christ's obedience because *His salvation was made perfect in His suffering* (Hebrews 2:10). His life made perfect in death was His final altar where the anointing of priest, prophet and kingly, became ours.

Track with me here, for a minute back to where Paul says we are His treasure in an earthen vessel so His power would be evident through our cracks. Right? (2 Corinthians 4:7). Our cracks in this step, goes through significant change in the atmosphere of the Holy Spirit because our flesh has been dethroned and the Lord now sits on it. Our cracks may still be visible but when The Paraclete comes along side and through them; we become incorruptible instruments which manifests His power. As a priest, like Jesus we are the bridge which brings people to God through sacrificially empowered service. We are both the offeror and the offered upon the same altar the Cross. Be mindful of when you're about to slip off or take yourself off all together. A living sacrifice if a life of worship, Like His.

Prayer: Thank you Jesus for Your ultimate test of obedience, the Cross where my cracks could be transformed into a vessel of glory. Forgive me when I had something or someone in Your place on the throne of my life. I repent and ask You to come take Your rightful place once more because if I don't I remain a corrupt instrument not a living sacrifice. For You, My Savior obeyed to live as a perfect sacrifice, Your death and made mine incorruptible. I am an instrument You will never let be snatched out of Your hand. Help me not to take myself off the altar of the cross. For I remain the priestly bridge between Man and God, where I continually offer myself in sacrificial empowered service, in the same way, You so unconditionally gave for me. In Jesus name, Amen.

Day 6

READ John 14,15,16

Our sixth letter is L for Leads in truth. What does the prophetic anointing look like as a vessel? Its not a coincidence that we saw this in a previous devotional and this one. Yes, it means we hear what the Holy Spirit is saying and gives it to those who need it corporately or individually. There another aspect which builds on this: we bear witness of the truth of Christ in word and deed [including signs wonders and miracles} and bring them to conversion. The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of truth 3 times in John 14,15, and 16. He will confirm what we say and do is either by faith or it is not. The Greek word for truth is best translated reality. Without faith it is impossible to

please God (Hebrews 11:6). John 14:15 says *If you love me, you will keep my commandments*. Either we believe and obey what The Spirit says or we do not. That's what grieves the Lord the most that's our reality. The works Jesus did were real, authentic and true. Grab hold of that and give it way to others, otherwise *faith without works is dead* (James 2:26). John 14:6 says *I am the way the truth and the life*. We are His living proof, evidence of this verse walked out in real time.

Hmmm... had to pause for a minute and think about that Where are you in that faith meter? Ask the Holy Spirit to tell you the truth. Think about this day in Jesus's timeline, the day before His resurrection. As a priest he stood in our place for us before His Father and says not guilty to any demonic accusations that say otherwise. For He alone has the power over death and hell (Revelation 1:18). The tomb was sealed and heavily guarded making sure He could no escape for He had publicly said He would rise on the third day. They weren't about to indulge in a resurrected Jesus after he had already raised Lazarus, right? God's law lost its demand and condemning power over us." *He disarmed the powers of darkness, triumphing over all authorities marshaled against God's kingdom. He made a show of them.*: (Colossians 2:14-15). Let's just say, He was the Marshal over our sin death and condemnation that day. Surely the weight of the world's burden soon would be lifted with the rolling away of a grave stone. His blood atoned for all we had done and ever will do.

Prayer: Oh Jesus, how precious and unfailing is Your unfailing love for me that You would send Your Spirit to help me bear witness of Your truth in my words and my actions, and by faith see signs and wonders bringing them to know You. Holy Spirit You are the confirmation the world of who Jesus is, the way, the truth, and the life. Make this our living reality, give our faith walking feet to a lost and dying souls. Forgive us when we have not obeyed and grieved You because of unbelief or fear. Thank You , Lord for being my victory over the powers if darkness, the grave, and all authority that comes against Your Kingdom come. In Jesus name, Amen.

Day 7

Read Zechariah 12:1; 2 Corinthians 4:10-18

Yeah, we made it to the last day. The last letter is S for Shared. A shared vessel shares our inheritance. I mentioned that in the introduction that He gave us the earth to have dominion over. This also corroborated His Kingly anointing where He now reigns sitting at Our Fathers' right hand. Our portion of that kingly anointing I will refer to as kingdomly. Not sure if that's proper English grammar but in short, it is one like Christ who acknowledges the value of each and every human life. Their importance to us and our compassion of our Savior for them, should drive us to utilize their talents to meet the needs of His kingdom people. As a point of reference His" *kingdom is not of this world*" (John 18:36). Zechariah 12 :1 says, "*Thus declares the Lord who stretches out the heavens and lays the foundations of the earth and forms the spirit of a man within him.*" Our purpose to display His glory is not less important than what He created for us to share as an inheritance here on earth and in heaven.

We talked about the display part yesterday comes from a heart that is obedient and fully assured in faith. When we are unified, we are vessels sharing one inheritance, the earth. John Piper said this about Jesus' obedience, "Jesus moved from untested obedience to suffering into proven obedience by learning new tasks without failing that takes faith. Jesus had a task much greater than His humanity to believe whether He could endure the suffering He had never experienced before and do it perfectly without unbelief and complaining. He moved towards fulfilling a perfect salvation for us sinners, as well as, complete faith proven perfection." We continually "*share in the Death of Jesus in our bodies so that the resurrection life of Jesus will be revealed through our humanity*". (2 Corinthians 4:10) Our vessels share confirmation of our sanctification where our sin's penalty is made perfect, the power of our sin has been dethroned perfectly. It then glorified where the presence of sin is eradicated at His Second Coming, our Ultimate Resurrection.

Since I mentioned the r word resurrection, you know what day today is. The Lord is Risen He is risen indeed. Happy Resurrection Day soldiers for Christ!!!

Prayer: Without You Holy Spirit, I cannot be vulnerably broken without Your conviction emptied what I have put in Your place. You are all that I need to be satisfied, full, and complete so I can become a mature empowered vessel. Let my faith be the evidence of my conviction where I believe what You say, You're going to do. Holy Spirit You are my Spirit of Truth sent to lead me in faith and walk it out in real time. Lastly, help me to value all life and make sure those talents are utilized for Your Kingdom. Let Your resurrection be revealed through my humanity as shared confirmation of the fullness of being set apart for use as a Once Broken, Vessel of Glory. Come quickly. Lord for we know Your when You catch us away with You the presence of sin will be no more. In Jesus name, Amen

Love you all so much until next time remember: Once you are broken, a beautiful obedient faith-filled vessel awaits His imparted glory. Our greatest victory is our inheritance which Christ graciously gave to us freely at salvation. Our job is to show the world and everyone in it their purpose from the beginning.is to be a vessel of His glory. Our Creator is the only one who can make something from nothing, take and empty vessel, fill it, pout it out, set it apart as holy, empower it, lead it to truth and share it together

V-ulnerable

E-mpty

S-atisfied

S-anctified

E-mpowered

L-eads in Truth

S-hared