

Series: The Crucial Commandment

Title: The Communion of Brokenness

Text: Matthew 11:28-30

Time: 1/22/20112 (a.m.)

Introduction

1. This text is an invitation to rest through the process of surrender and submission. Jesus has been talking to those burdened by the laws that they could never live up to and those who tried to do so were finding themselves drained of energy and joy.
2. This invitation is based on a relationship with Jesus and not our ability to perform religious activities. The rest offered is not that of inactivity but one in which Christ provides the strength for the service He has called us to.
3. In order to enjoy this rest and relationship we must submit to His yoke, basically submit to His will for learning and rest for our souls (mind, emotions, and will).
4. When I am not in surrender to the yoke of Christ I am in rebellion or as scripture says, at war with Christ, **Romans 8:7**⁷ because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*,
5. If we are to ever fully enjoy the rest offered by Christ and thus love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, we must come to a place of brokenness. Without it our love for God and others simply will not grow.
6. Brokenness is a state of the heart which allows our Lord to most readily and comfortably take up residence within us.
7. A theme of scripture is that our big God is drawn to the smallest of hearts, the one that genuinely recognizes its unworthiness.

Isaiah 57:15¹⁵ For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place, And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite.

Isaiah 66:1-2¹ Thus says the Lord, "Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest?"² "For My hand made all these things, Thus all these things came into being," declares the Lord. "But to this one I will look, To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.

8. When Jesus laid out His vision of life in the kingdom of God, He described those who would be most comfortable in His kingdom through what are called the Beatitudes (the attitudes of being). The very first one **Matthew 5:3**³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

9. The brokenhearted find in the heart of Jesus a welcome presence.

1. Exposed

1. Most often it is the hurt that we bring upon ourselves that lead us to where we need to go.
2. The biblical character who perhaps best exemplifies a heart truly broken over sin and from where we can learn the most in this area is King David.

Psalm 51:17 ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

3. In Psalm 32 and 51 David tells us how his moral failure brought him face to face with the darkness of his own spirit and led to his broken heart.

4. David's tragedy is found in 2 Samuel 11-12:

- He wasn't where he was supposed to be.
- He was looking where he should have never been looking.
- He abused the power of his office.
- Bathsheba became pregnant.
- David tried to cover it up.
- David had Bathsheba's husband Uriah murdered.

This is the man whom God said, **Acts 13:22** ²² "After He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My heart, who will do all My will.'

5. God told the prophet Nathan of David's sin and Nathan confronted David and caught him in a trap made possible by David's own self-righteousness.

6. David was exposed and there was no place for him to hide and to David's credit and God's glory he offered no excuses. He simply responded, "I have sinned against the Lord."

7. No excuses. No Justification. In Psalm 32:5 ⁵ I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord"; And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah.

2. Characteristics of a Broken and Contrite Heart:

- **A person with a broken heart has given up the pretense of pretended goodness**

1. David finally had the privilege of seeing the extent of the evil he was capable of; he saw the abyss of his own heart.

2. If Nathan would have tried to warn David of the temptation of Bathsheba my guess is that David would have protested that there was no way he would do such a thing.

3. To have a broken heart is to be stripped of any false notions regarding our capacity for sin.

4. Consider the case of **Adolph Eichmann** and **Yehiel Dinur**.

Adolph Eichmann (Left) came from a middle class protestant family in Germany. He rose through the ranks of the Nazi party and was viewed as the chief leader of "The Final Solution," the murder of 6 million Jews in concentration camps. After the war he escaped to Argentina until May of 1960 when he was arrested and brought back to Israel to stand trial. Everyone who saw him was amazed at his ordinary appearance. They expected him to look more sinister and imposing... but he looked...*normal*.

Years later Mike Wallace did a documentary about Eichmann and asked this question, "*How is it possible for a man to act as Eichmann acted? Was he a monster? A madman? Or was he perhaps something even more terrifying: was he normal?*"

During the program, a clip from Eichmann's 1961 trial showed Yehiel Dinur (A concentration camp survivor) enter the courtroom to take the witness stand. As he paused before Eichmann, he fainted. Mike Wallace asked Dinur if he was overcome by fear... hatred... or the memories of what

he endured. Mr. Dinur's response is chilling... "No," he responded... explaining that he realized Eichmann was not the godlike army officer who sent millions to their deaths. Much worse, he was an ordinary man. "I was afraid about myself. I saw that I am capable to do this. I am... exactly like he." Dinur concluded by saying, "**Eichmann is in all of us...**"

5. Blessed is the one who has lost the pretense of pretended goodness.

- **Has no room for self-righteous judgment of others**

1. The Pharisees had established themselves as the standard bearers of righteousness like the brother in the parable of the prodigal; they held those who failed in contempt.

2. We live in a world of the caught and the uncaught. Jonathan Edwards helps us to clearly see the distinction between the proud and humble heart.

"Spiritual pride is very apt to suspect others; whereas an humble saint is most jealous of himself, he is so suspicious of nothing in the world as he is of his own heart. The spiritually proud person is apt to find fault with other saints, that they are low in grace; and to be much in observing how cold and dead they are; and being quick to discern and take notice of their deficiencies. But the eminently humble Christian has so much to do at home . . . that he is not apt to be very busy with other hearts . . ."

- **Are extremely more teachable**

1. David's heart was made pliable and moldable, **Psalm 51:6** ⁶ Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.

2. A broken heart desires truth and seeks out others that will speak compassionate truth and not critical honesty.

- **Draws the delight of the Father**

1. **Psalm 32:1-2** ¹ How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered! ² How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit!

Psalm 51:8 ⁸ Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones which You have broken rejoice.
Psalm 51:12 ¹² Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit.

2. After David confesses his sin to Nathan, Nathan did not speak condemnation but on behalf of God spoke compassion, "The Lord has taken away your sins."

3. There were consequences, but God was no longer an enemy to run from; He was a Father Who David could run to.

Maria and her daughter, Christina, live in a poor neighborhood on the skirts of a Brazilian village.

Maria's husband had died when Christina was an infant. The young mother, stubbornly refusing opportunities to remarry, got a job and set out to raise her young daughter. Now, fifteen years later, the worst years were over. Though Maria's salary as a maid afforded few luxuries, it was reliable and it did provide food and clothing. Now Christina was old enough to get a job to help out. But Christina was an independent spirit. She couldn't imagine marrying a young man from the village and settling down to raise a family.

She spoke often of going to the city. She dreamed of trading her dusty neighborhood for exciting avenues and city life. Just the thought of this horrified her mother. Maria was always quick to

remind Christina of the harshness of the streets. "People don't know you there. Jobs are scarce and the life is cruel. And besides, if you went there, what would you do for a living?"

Maria knew exactly what Christina would do, or would have to do for a living. That's why her heart broke when she awoke one morning to find her daughter's bed empty. Maria knew immediately where her daughter had gone. She also knew immediately what she must do to find her. She quickly threw some clothes in a bag, gathered up all her money, and ran out of the house.

On her way to the bus stop, she entered a drugstore to get one last thing. Pictures. She sat in the photograph booth, closed the curtain, and spent all she could on pictures of herself. With her purse full of small black-and-white photos, she boarded the next bus to Rio de Janeiro.

She knew Christina had no way of earning money. She also knew that her daughter was too stubborn to give up. When pride meets hunger, a human will do things that before were unthinkable. Knowing this, Maria began her search. Bars, hotels, nightclubs, any place with the reputation for streetwalkers or prostitutes. She went to them all. And at each place she left her picture-taped on a bathroom mirror, tacked to a hotel bulletin board, fastened to a corner phone booth. And on the back of each photo she wrote a note.

It wasn't too long before both the money, and the pictures ran out, and Maria had to go home. The weary mother wept as the bus began its long journey back to her small village.

It was a few weeks later that young Christina descended the hotel stairs. Her young face was tired. Her brown eyes no longer danced with youth but spoke of pain and fear. Her laughter was broken. Her dream had become a nightmare. A thousand times over, she had longed to trade these countless beds for her secure pallet.

As Christina reached the bottom of the stairs, her eyes noticed a familiar face. She looked again, and there on the lobby mirror was a small picture of her mother. Christina's eyes burned and her throat tightened as she walked across the room and removed the small photo. Written on the back was this compelling invitation. **"Whatever you have done, whatever you have become, it doesn't matter. Please come home."**

(Max Lucado, "No Wonder They Call Him Savior")