



BROKENNESS: THE WORK OF THE CROSS-Part 1

Learning How To Live The Broken And Humble Lifestyle

Main Scripture Reading: *John 12:24-25 ESV Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (25) Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life*

Memory Verse: *Philippians 3:10-11 ESV that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, (11) that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead*

Lesson objective: The lesson of brokenness is not a quick lesson, making a quick decision, and then it being a done deal. It is a lifetime of daily choosing to be broken and poured out. These are Scriptures for those who want to dig deeper into the study of a broken life style. According to Scriptures, we can know the requirements that our Lord Jesus Christ states for those who want to be His disciples? The broken life-style is a life of being a disciple. Being a disciple starts with a choice but ends with a great cost.

I. INTRODUCTION:

When we study the doctrine of brokenness and what it means to the believer we could be overwhelmed with the truth that the Word of God teaches us that we cannot live the Christian life. It takes Christ to live a Christian life. He must be allowed to live His life through us. If we live the life on our own merit it becomes nothing short of being liken unto the Pharisees. Then we will have the tendency to judge others by our own moral standards.

It may be hard for us to keep in mind that it takes Christ to live a Christ-like life. The brokenness life-style is a humble and poured out life. It is never to be viewed as a onetime event in which we “arrive or attain”, but a daily minute-by-minute dying to self and living a Christ-centered life. Such a life does not demand to be first or right. When we are dead in Christ we give up the right to be right.

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There is a measure of “fruitfulness” within the life of a believer. It is the desire of the Lord Jesus Christ and of the Father that we bear fruit and bear “much fruit.” But how can this happen and how can we judge the increase of it?

Within everything that we see, hear, touch, taste, and feel, we can be certain that there is the true and there is the counterfeit. The false or counterfeit can be realized by looking at the fruit it produces and what it leads us to. Remember that the *fruit of a tree reveals the root of the tree*. The true always bears spiritual fruit and leads us to the heart of the Father. The counterfeit always bears fruit that leads us to ourselves and to a covetous heart.

These lessons are on brokenness, which is not a popular study among those believers who love the world and the things of the world. True fruit comes through the brokenness of the outward man, which is our body and the inner man, which is the soul and referred to as "the flesh." This brokenness of the outward man and the inner man releases the Spirit of God that dwells within the inner-most man, which is called "our spirit." We hear many sermons about the cross in the fact that it opens the door for the redemption of mankind. But how many times do we hear that the cross is the symbol of the brokenness of the outward and inner man in order that the inner-most man may be released to bear true fruit? How is this. Because the cross represents a place of death, and the Word of God tells us that we are crucified with Christ.

The cross of Christ reduces the outward (our body), man and our inner (our soul) to death. Just to remind us that the inner man or soul is made up of our *mind* or how we think, our *emotions* or how we feel, and our *will* or how we choose.

The work of the cross opens the human shell to release the "spirit-man." The work of the cross destroys all that belongs to our outward and inner man. It destroys our opinions, our ways, our intelligence, our self-love, our rights, and our personality. I cannot use my personality traits as being out-going or shy and bashful as excuses for my spiritual condition or my spiritual destiny. As we allow the work of the cross to be done in our life we become transparent, real, honest, humble, and submissive to the ways of the Father.

When we allow the work of the cross to be done in our lives, stubbornness, rebellion, rejection, and self-love give way to the character of our Lord and our heavenly Father. The fruit of the Holy Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23 is also known as the character of God the Father. The character of God is not just something that the Father does, it is who He is.

We have this fruit or character dwelling within our inner-most man, our spirit, by way of the Person of the Holy Spirit. When a man walks in a broken lifestyle, it is only natural that he abides in the presence of the Father. Let me say again that brokenness is not a onetime event, but a daily and continual lifestyle. In this position of brokenness, it is natural for that we receive revelation from the Father, for the Scriptures say that we have His mind and can know His will. Without effort on our part we can with our spirit man enter into the place of the Father to know and to receive and to do His will.

Galatians 5:22-25 ESV But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (24) And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (25) If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

When we walk in the flesh without brokenness we judge one another by our personalities, our actions, and our looks. However, in light of brokenness we know one another by the Holy Spirit that works in me and the Holy Spirit that works in you. When someone speaks in our presence when we are unbroken, we tend to "size him up" (judge), with the flesh. In the Spirit, with a broken flesh and heart, we "size that person up" in the Spirit. In other words, the Spirit of the Most High God reveals to our spirit what manner of man that stands before us and what his needs are. That revelation stays hidden to a person who has escaped the death work of the cross. With the outward man and the inner man broken the spirit-man is free to flow in the things of God and is open to the heart and spirit of others.

Now this is not an easy path to walk. This is a path of death. It is death to the world, death to self-desires, and death to self-living. Yet, this is the only path to victory. This is a total emptying of self so the Holy Spirit of God can come through us in His fullness to a needy world. This is the only path to being totally "led by the Person of the Holy Spirit." This is the path that our Lord Jesus Christ calls all of His disciples to follow. This is the path of true overcomers. Remember, the Word teaches that the only way to have true life is to give up our life.

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II. THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP:

Anything in this life worth having cost something, except becoming a Christian. Getting "saved" or giving one's life to the Lord Jesus Christ is an act of faith in receiving God's grace. Salvation is a free gift from God the Father purchased by our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. We just need to freely receive it. However, being a disciple cost us everything. Everything right, excuse, possession, and relationship I have must be in a position of placement on the altar and dead to me if I truly want to walk as a disciple of Christ.

A. THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP IS THE CROSS:

It is a false mentality to assume that just because we are a believer then we are a disciple. Christians are born into the new life, but disciples are made through learning to sit at the feet of our Lord Jesus Christ and learn. Let me say this again. Christians are born, and disciples are made. According to Scriptures, what requirements does our Lord Jesus Christ state for those who want to be His disciples? The first step in becoming a disciple is to die to self. I must be a cross-

bearer. This is the ultimate demand because this is forsaking all. If I cannot be a cross-bearer and die to self, than I will not be able to fulfil the other requirements for discipleship.

Luke 14:26-33 ESV “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. (27) Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. (28) For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? (29) Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, (30) saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ (31) Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? (32) And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. (33) So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

B. THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP IS EMBRACING TRUTH NO MATTER WHAT:

What are the other requirements about being a disciple stated by our Lord Jesus Christ and the Apostle Paul? Truth is an amazing commodity. It is a misused trait because many times we view truth as our opinion, or the opinion of others. The problem with this is that we all have opinions largely based on experience and education, and therefore we can't all be right.

We could also view truth as something that seems on the surface as being right. We can call this “half-truths.” The problem with this is that a half-truth is a whole lie. One Biblical example is Abraham telling the Pharaoh that Sarah was his sister. This was true because they had the same father, but different mothers. It was true, but it was not truth, because he failed to tell him that she was also his wife. Any so-called truth we tell that leaves out facts in order to create a wrong impression with others, although in itself is true, but is far from truth.

We could also view truth as the voice of the majority. The problem with this is that it is morality-based and culturally-driven. As the winds of moral judgment shifts so does what is viewed as truth. As a culture or society continues a downward shift in morality then that which is called truth is nothing more than a corrupted and depraved mindset. This shift continues until the nation moves through three stages. It will move from being moral to immoral, leading the people to call good bad, and bad good. Then it will move from immoral to amoral leading the people to do what is right in their own eyes. At this point there is no more good or evil, but just eat, drink and be merry.

Our Lord Jesus Christ did not come to bring “peace.” This means these current times in which we live which calls us to live a life of compromise and tolerance goes against the teachings of the Scriptures and the life and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Words of God do not bring peace but drop as a sword in the middle of family and friends. Many of us think that we are doing God's will in trying to keep peace in the family by way of compromise. This is not the path of a disciple.

Matthew 10:34-39 ESV “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. (35) For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. (36) And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. (37) Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. (38) And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. (39) Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Philippians 1:20-21 ESV as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. (21) For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

C. THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP IS THE RIGHT OFFERING AND THE RIGHT SACRIFICE:

The body of Christ is not very good at giving. This is a rash statement, and many might have issues with it. Fact is that within the average church 20% of the people give 80% of the tithes and offerings. That means that 80% of the people only gives 20% of the needed funds for ministry operation costs and ministry outreach. But the key offering that the Father desires is us. If He has us, He will have all else which we hold as “our” possessions. What does the Apostle Paul tell us "to do" and "not to do" with ourselves in Romans 12:1-2?

Romans 12:1-2 ESV I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (2) Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Notice the word “acceptable” in both scriptures. This means that God is not under obligation to accept anything we give. It must be the right offering, in the right condition, given in the right way. We might present our life to the Father, but it might not be a holy condition, or we present it with reservations and conditions.

III. THE TWO CHOICES OF BROKENNESS: DIE OR BE KILLED

Choosing to become a Christian is still a choice. However, choosing not to become a Christian is certainly not a reasonable or logical decision. Once saved the same can be true of becoming a disciple or being broken. A believer can remain a baby Christian all his or her life, living for self, or chose to die to self and grow up in the Lord into a mature fruitful disciple. We do not have a reasonable choice concerning brokenness. What are the two choices in Matthew 21:42-44?

Matthew 21:42-44 ESV Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's

doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? (43) Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. (44) And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."

Each day I have the choice and honor to throw myself on the rock, (the Lord Jesus Christ), and live a broken and humble lifestyle. The other choice is to live a selfish life of pride and have the rock roll over me. It is a die or be killed situation. Each day I need grace to live and grace for protection. But what if that grace is held back? If it is held back, what conditions in my life would cause such a thing?

James 4:6 ESV But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

1 Peter 5:5-7 ESV Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." (6) Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, (7) casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

A broken and humble life is open for the grace of God to be poured out. However, the opposite is true of a life that is not broken, not humbled and filled with pride. The Word says that God resists or opposes the prideful heart. That means in the Greek that God says, "you stand over there away from me."

IV. WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF BEING A DISCIPLE OF THE LORD?

We will look at Matthew chapter 10 for characteristics of being a true disciple of Christ. When reading Matthew 10 look for those traits given which are the tests of true discipleship?

A. THE TRUE DISCIPLE WILL BE HATED MORE THAN OUR LORD WAS HATED.

Matthew 10:24-25 ESV "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. (25) It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

B. OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST WILL HOLD NOTHING BACK FROM THE TRUE DISCIPLE. WE ARE TO PREACH/PROCLAIM THAT WHICH WE RECEIVE.

Matthew 10:26-27 ESV "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. (27) What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.

C. THE TRUE DISCIPLE WILL NOT FEAR MAN BUT WILL HAVE A GREAT FEAR, AWE AND REVERENCE FOR GOD.

Matthew 10:28 ESV And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

D. THE TRUE DISCIPLE KNOWS THIS TRUTH: GOD SEES US, GOD KNOWS US AND GOD WATCHES OVER US.

Matthew 10:29-31 ESV Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. (30) But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. (31) Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

E. THE TRUE DISCIPLE WILL NOT DENY THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. THOSE WHO DO SO THE LORD WILL NOT INTERCEDE TO THE FATHER FOR THEM.

Matthew 10:32-33 ESV So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, (33) but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

F. THE TRUE DISCIPLE KNOWS THAT HIS FAMILY WILL BE THOSE WHO DO THE WILL OF THE FATHER.

Matthew 10:34-36 ESV “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. (35) For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. (36) And a person's enemies will be those of his own household.

Matthew 12:46-50 ESV While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. (48) But he replied to the man who told him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” (49) And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! (50) For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

G. THE TRUE DISCIPLE HAS NO LOVES THAT COMPETE AGAINST THE LOVE FOR THE FATHER.

The true disciple will not set up idols of people.

Matthew 10:37 ESV Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

H. THE TRUE DISCIPLE KNOWS THAT EACH DAY IS A DAY OF DYING TO SELF.

Matthew 10:38 ESV And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

I. THE TRUE DISCIPLE KNOWS THAT REAL LIVING STARTS WHEN WE SURRENDER OUR LIFE TO THE LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Matthew 10:39 ESV Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

J. THE TRUE DISCIPLE KNOWS THAT THERE IS NO COMPARISON WITH TEMPORAL THINGS TO ETERNAL THINGS.

The eternal things of God are some of the promises to the disciple. Still, many will sacrifice the eternal things of God on the altar of the temporal things of the world.

Matthew 19:29 ESV And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life.

K. THE TRUE DISCIPLE KNOWS THAT THE LOVE WHICH WE ARE TO GIVE TO THE FATHER COMES FROM OUR WHOLE SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY.

Matthew 22:36-38 ESV "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" (37) And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. (38) This is the great and first commandment.

L. THE TRUE DISCIPLE KNOWS THAT TO BE A DISCIPLE MEANS DENIAL, DEATH TO SELF, AND FOLLOWING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Luke 9:23-25 ESV And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. (24) For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. (25) For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?

M. THE TRUE DISCIPLE NOT ONLY HEARS THE VOICE OF THE FATHER AND THE SON BUT BELIEVES THAT IT IS A NORMAL ACTIVITY FOR ALL BELIEVERS.

John 10:27 ESV My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

N. THE TRUE DISCIPLE KNOWS THAT HE IS HATED BY THE WORLD AND PREPARES FOR IT.

Luke 6:22-23 ESV “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! (23) Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

John 15:18 ESV “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.

O. THE TRUE DISCIPLE KNOWS THAT THE ONLY WAY TO PLEASE GOD IS THROUGH FAITH. THE TRUE DISCIPLE SEEKS TO HAVE A TESTIMONY OF FAITH FOR THE GLORY OF THE FATHER.

Hebrews 11:1-6 ESV Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (2) For by it the people of old received their commendation. (3) By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. (4) By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. (5) By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. (6) And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

This is but the first lesson on the broken lifestyle. I have been a Christian for over 40 years now and I am still learning about brokenness and humility. I have experienced the abundance of grace being released when walking in brokenness and I have experienced the silence of God when walking in the flesh and in pride. I choose to die daily instead of being killed.