

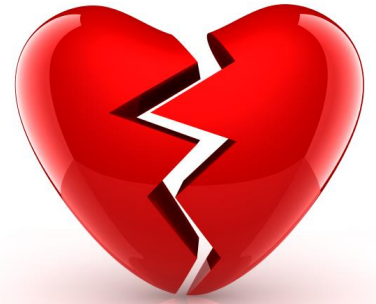
God Uses The Broken

Eccl. 3:1-3



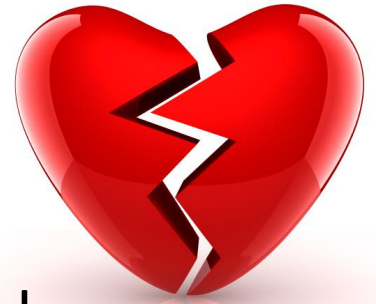
Purpose: To show how God uses broken things for His purpose.

Introduction



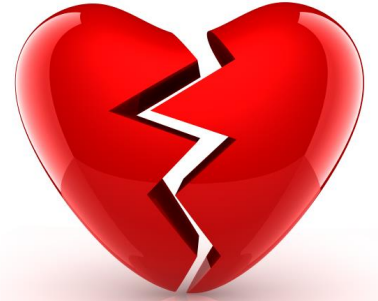
- A time for everything. Eccl. 3:1-3.
- Many things are discarded when they are broken, but some things are of value even or maybe only after they are broken.
- A farmer breaks ground to plant grain. When the grain is harvested it is crushed and life sustaining bread is made from the flour.
- God uses the broken.

God couldn't use me, could He?



- Moses stuttered
- David's armor didn't fit
- John Mark was rejected by Paul
- Noah got drunk
- Hosea's wife was a prostitute
- Solomon was too rich
- Abraham was too old
- David was too young
- Timothy had ulcers
- Peter was afraid of death
- Lazarus was dead
- Paul was a murderer
- So were Moses & David
- Jonah ran from God
- Miriam was a gossip
- Elijah was burned out
- Thomas doubted
- Peter betrayed Jesus

Broken Pitchers



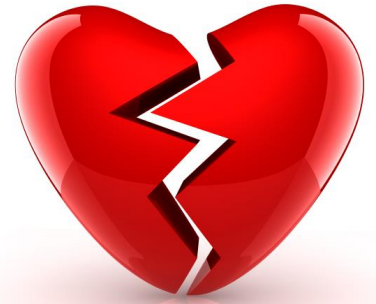
- Judges 7:16-21. Gideon and his 300 men secured a victory by obeying God's plan. They carried trumpets and pitchers with torches inside the pitchers.
- Breaking the pitchers allowed the light to shine.
- Matt. 5:14-16. We need to break our pitchers and let our lights shine!

Broken golden calf



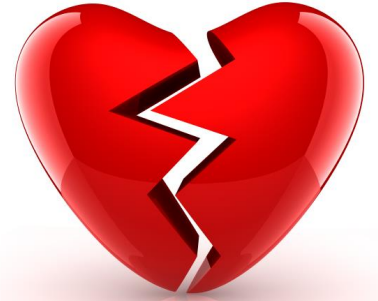
- Exod. 32 tells the story of the golden calf.
- Moses ground the idol to powder and made the children of Israel drink it. Exod. 32:20.
- We also must be broken from our habits of idolatry. 1 John 2:15-17. Love not the world.

Broken alabaster flask



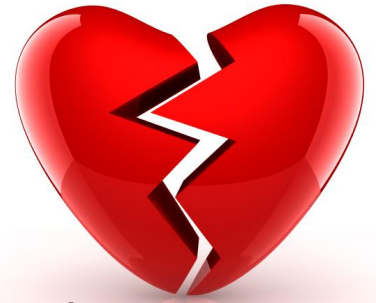
- Mark 14:3, 8. A woman breaks an expensive flask of nard and anoints the head of Jesus.
- What we “own” is only ours while we are here. Once we die it all goes to others.
- What expensive things are we willing to break for the cause of Christ?
- Matt. 6:19-20. Where is your treasure?

Broken body of Jesus



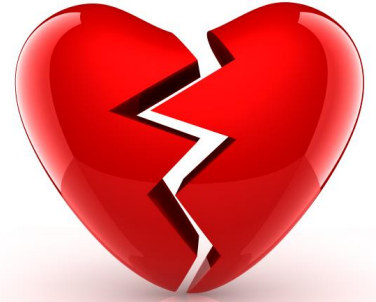
- Although the bones of Jesus were never broken, His body was tormented, crucified and cut open with a spear. John 19:34.
- His flesh was broken by the nails and spear.
- Had Jesus died a natural death, we would not have the sacrifice from our Savior.

Broken heart



- Hard and stubborn hearts must be broken so that genuine repentance and reconciliation with God can occur.
- Psalm 51:7-17. We need to have a broken spirit and a broken and contrite heart.
- Broken hearts lead to submissive, humble obedience.

Conclusion



- L. O. Sanderson's hymn: "Bring Christ your broken life, so marred by sin, He will create a new, make whole again; Your empty, wasted years, He will restore, and your iniquities, remember no more."
- Can you see how God uses the broken?

Bring Christ Your Broken Life: Words T. O. Chisholm (1935) Music L. O. Sanderson (1935)

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Sermon adapted from a Jerry Davidson outline.