**Helping the Brokenhearted**

**Introduction:**

Psalm 147:1-3 “Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; For it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful. The Lord builds up Jerusalem; He gathers together the outcasts of Israel, He heals the brokenhearted And binds up their wounds.” NKJV

**Theme:** Jesus’ plan for helping us helps the broken hearted.

**Body:**

1. **Allow us to experience pain and hardship**

“Equips us” II Corinthians 1:3-4 “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,” NKJV

1. Let’s us feel what others feel. Hebrews 10:32-34 “But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with suffering: partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods; knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.” NKJV Our wounds enable us to feel another person’s pain.

* “Who can save a child from a burning house without taking the risk of being hurt by the flames? Who can listen to a story of loneliness and despair without taking the risk of experiencing similar pains in his own heart and even losing his precious peace of mind? In short: Who can take away suffering without entering it?
* The great illusion of leadership is to think that man can be led out of the desert by someone who has never been there.” UNKNOWN SOURCE

1. Our own brokenness gives us credibility. “Been in their shoes – Walked the road they have walked” Many in the world have experienced being broken.

* Broken by life – Life has been hazardous.
* “Hamlet” – “When sorrows come, they come not single spies, but in battalions.” Many things may cause sorrow and grief.
  + Health Job 2:11-13 “Now when Job’s three friends heard of all this adversity that had come upon him, each one came from his own place – Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. For they had made an appointment together to come and mourn with him, and to comfort him. And when they raised their eyes from afar, and did not recognize him, they lifted their voices and wept; and each one tore his robe and sprinkled dust on his head toward heaven. So they sat down with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his grief was very great.” NKJV
  + Children Proverbs 17:25 “A foolish son is a grief to his father, And bitterness to her who bore him.” NKJV
  + Not able to have children – Hannah I Samuel 1 “9 So Hannah arose. . . 10 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the Lord and wept in anguish. 11 Then she made a vow and said, ‘O Lord of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head.’ ” NKJV
  + Addiction – drink Proverbs 23:29-35 “Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long at the wine, Those who go in search of mixed wine. Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it swirls around smoothly; At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper. Your eyes will see strange things, And your heart will utter perverse things. Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, Or like one who lies at the top of the mast, saying: ‘They have struck me, but I was not hurt; They have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?’ ” NKJV
  + Money I Timothy 6:10 “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” NKJV
  + Death John 3:36 “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” NKJV
* Some are brokenhearted because despair seems to follow them around. It has become their normal.
* Some know “the dark night of the soul.”

By experiencing grief and sorrow, we are better able to help others. Note Isaiah 61:1 “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;” Hebrews 2:17-18 “Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey?” NKJV

1. **Allow us to feel as Jesus feels**

* Philippians 1:8 “For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.” NKJV Greek – inward parts were the seat of emotion When you have overwhelming compassion for someone in need, your “insides” tighten when you hear of someone’s grief or sorrow.
  + See “affection of Jesus” in the following:
    - Matthew 9:35-36 “Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes; He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.” NKJV Sheep without a shepherd
    - Mark 8:1-3 “In those days, the multitude being very great and having nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples to Him and said to them, ‘I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. And if I send them away hungry to their own houses, they will faint on the way; for some of them have come from afar.’ ” NKJV Hungry
    - Luke 7:11-15 “Now it happened, the day after, that He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, ‘Do not weep.’ Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, ‘Young man, I say to you, arise.’ So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother.” NKJV Death of woman’s son
    - Matthew 9:12-13 “When Jesus heard that, He said to them, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.’ But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.” NKJV Sinners

1. When we have the heart of Jesus, we will see as Jesus sees.

“Having Jesus’ heart for people keeps us from turning people in our lives into it people. You know what I mean by it people. When we treat the bank teller no differently than we would an ATM machine, we have turned him into an it. When the cashier who takes our order at a drive-thru doesn’t even have a face, we’ve turned her into an it. Sometimes we even live in the same house with it people.

Jesus never met an it person. Jesus noticed everyone. He had an I – Thou relationship with everyone he met. Every interaction he had with another person meant something to Jesus. He didn’t eat a meal and then two minutes later forget the name of the person who served him. That’s what having Jesus’ splanchna does to us. It sensitizes us to people and their needs. When we have Jesus’ heart, we see what he sees as if we’re borrowing his eyes.” UNKNOWN SOURCE

1. When we have the heart of Jesus, we will feel as Jesus feels.

* Philippians 2:1-2 “Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.” NKJV

“Feeling what Jesus feels. The other thing that happens as you pray to have the compassion of Jesus is that he will allow you to feel what *he* feels for people in pain. Frederick Buechner once said, ‘Compassion is the sometimes fatal capacity for feeling what it’s like to live inside somebody else’s skin. It is the knowledge that there can never really be any peace and joy for me until there is peace and joy finally for you too.’ That’s what it’s like to have Jesus’ heart for people.” UNKNOWN SOURCE

**Conclusion:**

The brokenhearted are all around us, needing our compassion. The grief and sorrow you may have experienced enables you to better help those in need. But remember a brighter day awaits. Isaiah 51:11 “So the ransomed of the Lord shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness; Sorrow and sighing shall flee away.” Isaiah 25:8 “He will swallow up death forever, And the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces; The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; For the Lord has spoken.” NKJV

God’s people, the ransomed are bought with a price: The Blood of Our Lord. I Peter 2:21-25 “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: ‘Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth;’ who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness – by whose stripes you were healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.” NKJV

Bobby Stafford January 10, 2016 [Evening]