

# Things that broke Jesus' heart (2) – THE LOST

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Mark 14:32-42

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**[Please note these are unedited preaching notes and are not for publication. They are made available here to aid the deaf community in Christ Church and to be a reference for anyone who found the sermons useful.]**

Last Sunday I looked at Jesus weeping over the City of Jerusalem and his heart breaking over their failure to recognise the perilous place they were in because of their sin and their failure to see the offer of peace that God was making to them.

Maybe you have heard others pray or prayed yourself, "Lord, break our hearts with the things that break your heart." In this sermon series I am looking at incidents in the Scriptures where we read of Jesus' heart being broken.

Do you want your heart to be broken over the things that break Jesus' heart? I must warn you that if you pray that prayer you will have your heart broken. You will not be the same. Your heart will be broken. You will find yourself in tears. I have been there this week. What made me ever think I could embark on preaching a sermon series like this and remain dry eyed!

I want to take you tonight to that scene in the Garden of Gethsemane. It does not say exactly that Jesus wept, but it does say that his sweat was like great drops of blood and there is no doubt that he was in anguish.

And I want you to know that I am sitting next to you in the chairs as I preach this sermon. This is impacting me far deeper than I realised and I have not worked it all out yet. I am not delivering to you a finished product and saying be like me, except in this, come to the Garden of Gethsemane and let your heart be broken over the things that break Jesus' heart.

This is a moment of great anguish for Jesus – there were a lot of things going on for him at that moment – he was facing all sorts of things but what I want to draw to our attention is that Jesus' broken heartedness at this moment enabled him to embrace the personal cost of salvation for others.

At this moment Jesus is about to embrace what salvation for others is going to cost him.

Friends, you and I are invited to follow him there. Not that there is anything that we can add to his salvation. But Paul does tell us that there is a suffering to embrace in carrying Christ's salvation to others. (Col 1:24)

What Jesus did is sufficient. It is complete. All that we need for life and godliness, for forgiveness and mercy, for transformation, and ultimate redemption is contained in what he has done for us.

But in the sharing and carrying out the message of the good news and the offer of salvation that it might not be missed, we need to embrace a broken heartedness about the lost and their need of God's saving grace in the same way that Jesus was broken hearted about the lost – a broken heartedness that lead him to the cross.

That is what I want to speak about tonight.

I have four simple points I want to make.

Having a broken heart - embracing the personal cost in sharing the salvation of Christ with others means that like Jesus.

### **(1) We must embrace self denial**

*"Not my will but your will be done", Jesus prays.*

There is a self denial which is essentially about the sort of character God wants to build in our lives to over come the things that want to bring us down.

I am not talking about that. I am talking about the self denial that is required to reach others.

The point is simply this: To share the gospel with others means we have to make sacrifices.

#### **ILLUSTRATE**

If we want to be an open welcoming family that always has room at our table that will cost you something. Not only the financial cost of more food. We will loose intimacy and the freedom to relax and forget about what is outside the doors of our home and what is happening on the street on the street. It will cost us.

If we open our doors of this church to strangers – if really go out of our way to do that - we will lose intimacy and freedom to be safe and comfortable. We may even lose out financially if a whole load of poor people join us and make this their home. We will have to share what we have with others.

We may not do it overtly but in our heart attitude we want to close the doors and put up a sign which says closed to visitors. We just want to be on our own with the people we like and not have to worry about others for a while.

Let me ask you to consider this question: did you come hear tonight to welcome visitors and strangers hoping that you might get to pray with some one who you don't know, who you have never met before and see them come to Christ, or did you come to see your friends?

I find that a very challenging question. I told you I am sitting in the chairs along side you tonight.

If you take up the invitation to get involved in any ministry – children's church, crèche – it is going to cost you. It is going to cost you sleeping in on Sunday mornings.

Reaching out to the lost, drawing children to the Lord - will involve self denial. There is a personal cost involved when we put ourselves in a place where we lose something so that others may gain some thing.

My prayer is that God will increase in us a that ability to be broken hearted about the lost. There is not enough of it. It is all too rare. I am praying for more.

I believe that one of indicators that God's spirit is moving in a church is that there is an increasing broken heartedness for the lost.

A broken heartedness for those who are missing, those who are not content with the 99 in the church but will go off in costly inconvenient search for the one that is missing.

ILL: Scene from Schindler's list – where Oscar Schindler the German industrialist who exploited the war situation and the supply of Jewish slave labour to make a lots of money, but then uses it bribe the Commandant to allow him to save the Jews in his factory from being sent to Auschwitz but instead to send them to his factory where he can protect them – and he does until the end of the war. When armistice is declared and he is leaving the factory and the factory workers gather to pay tribute to him and say goodbye

he breaks down and cries because he did not do more. He looks at his car and says what use is this car, it could have paid for 10 more. He looks at this ring and cries in anguish saying through the tears, look at this ring - it could have paid for one more.

He was not satisfied or consoled by the 800 or more that were saved but by the ones that were lost and that he could have done more.

It was a graphic illustration of what I believe Jesus was saying when he speaks of the leaving the 99 and going after one more.

Are we prepared to deny our selves for the sake of those who don't know Jesus? Are we really able to say, not my will but yours be done?

There are lots of tough passages in scripture about preferring others and serving others, but how about doing that for some who is really broken and offensive.

As I have examined my own heart I realised that if truth be told, yes I want people to come to Christ and be converted and join Christ Church, but I want them as quickly as possible to be changed and get all cleaned up and made presentable and okay so that they fit in with our cosy Christ Church culture and don't do anything embarrassing.

I want to see revival but I want it happen in a great out pouring of the spirit that makes it happen just like that without me having to get involved and get all relational with unsaved and unredeemed and people.

But God brings the lost in one by one. And he uses me and you when we are prepared to deny ourselves and forego privileges and blessings so that others can come to know the blessing of new life in Jesus.

Paul chastises the church in Corinth because when they celebrate Holy Communion the rich come and make drunkards and gluttons of themselves while people go without. What a travesty that those in the body of Christ have disregard and disrespect for those who have nothing.

Paul says to the Ephesians ...(Eph 2:12)

*Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.*

“Without God and without hope”. What a terrible place to be.

Remember that once you were there and there are many people who there now - without God and without hope.

### **Self denial – that is what it takes.**

In Matthew 16 Jesus says ...(Matt 16:24)

*"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."*

Now most often when I have heard people refer to this passage it is used to refer to sorrow and suffering.

I am a child of a divorced home... that is the cross I have to carry.

I am plagued with medical illness ... that is the cross I have to carry.

I am a single parent ...I am married to an alcoholic ...

That is my cross which I have to bear.

That is not your cross. Those are incredible things to embrace, and we as the body of Christ want to stand with you in empathy and solidarity.

But the cross does not represent our suffering. It must represent to us what it meant to Jesus – the means of salvation for others.

Is there another way for this hour to pass me by? No there is not. Therefore I will go.

To deny ourselves and take up our cross means that we take our part – be it small, large, big, or what ever ... in the salvation of other people. Taking up our cross can't simply be that we just care about our own.

Carrying the cross can't simply be about caring about other Christians, but about caring about those who God's Son died to save.

Secondly besides self denial in this broken hearted place that embraces the personal cost of the salvation of others, there is ...

## **(2) Demonstrated love**

That is what Romans 5:8 says ...

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:  
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Proverbs 27:5

*Better is open rebuke than hidden love.*

That does not mean that being openly challenged and hit in the face is such a good thing. It just means that hidden love does not have any impact.

God demonstrated his love for us while we were still sinners.

When Jesus said, "Not my will but yours be done", his love was embracing sinners who were lost, and would remain lost if he did not make that sacrifice and demonstrate God's love for them.

A love for those who are yet sinners. What an interesting thought.

When Christians demonstrate love for people who are not Christians in random acts of kindness, that is surprising thing. That is being broken hearted like Jesus.

Demonstrated love. Some times it is something extraordinary. Some times it is just a small but consistent way that we are loving.

ILLUSTRATE:

- I was talking to a guy who is not a member of Christ Church but happens to do a lot of business for people who are members of Christ Church.  
He said I can't put my finger on it but doing business with your guys – well it is just different. I really like doing business with them.  
This was a guy who is asking all sorts of questions about God and the Bible and what it means to be a Christian.  
Well done Christ Church. I am proud of you. Small acts of kindness.
- The great small group acts of love – each small group was given R300 to pray about how they were going to use it to demonstrate God's love.

Demonstrated love! It happens in the crucible of sacrifice.

Do you know that there is no gift of evangelism. There isn't. I know you will say Ephesians 4 – there is a ministry of evangelism who in a fathering caring way helps others to do the same thing, but there is no gift of evangelism.

The reason I think there is no gift of evangelism is because all the gifts are required to bring some one to Christ.  
Hospitality and administration, service and teaching and preaching, and healing and prophecy, ...  
They just have to be used in an outward way and not on ourselves.

To be an evangelist all you have to do is to learn to give away what ever you have got.

Besides self denial and demonstrated love in this embrace with a broken a heart that pays the cost to draw others to Christ so they can find salvation ...there is thirdly this critical thing of ...

### **(3) Choosing God's way**

*"If his hour can pass from me .. but if not, this is the hour for which I have come. Your will be done, not mine."*

This is the way – this is the only way.

Rom 2:4

*<sup>4</sup>Do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?*

We have quoted this verse often but something that struck me freshly this week is that critical to the process that God uses to bring people to repentance is that God is kind to them.  
God being kind – God being friendly – God being patient and tolerant was what God did to bring people to salvation.

Why should it be any different for us? Why don't we do what God did? Now there is a novel thought!

Don't misunderstand me here.  
I believe in the power and the presence of God.  
I believe in healing breaking in the here and now.

I believe in deliverance from bondages that hold us back.  
I believe in the miraculous to change our circumstances and our situation.

But what Romans 2 says is that vital in the process of turning and repentance, a move that is critical for salvation, is that God is kind.

God is tolerant. God is patient. God is kind. It is the kindness of God that leads to repentance.

If we are going have Jesus' broken heart for the lost, reaching them with the gospel will involve us being like God. It will entail us being kind. It will entail us being friendly.

friendliness -> kindness -> relationship -> trust -> receive -> turn -> repent -> change -> transformation -> new life.

#### ILLUSTRATION

David Parker: New church – was looking at how he could win people for Christ?

Possibilities – personal evangelism, power evangelism, friendship evangelism, alpha, ... endless possibilities.

“Lord, what do you want me to do?”

The Lord said: “Just do something. I'll meet you there.”

Just take one step towards some one who is lost - I'll meet you there.

It takes a broken heart to deny one self.

It takes a broken heart to sacrificially demonstrate God's love to some one who is unlovely.

It takes a broken heart to do it God's way with kindness, tolerance and patience.

#### **Let me give you a practical tip about evangelism.**

Evangelism usually involves an element of surprise. It requires people being surprised.

It involves people finding out that God is more loving than they thought he was.

Often at Alpha people are surprised at how normal Christians are. By that it means that they find them approachable and kind. Not what they expected. It was a surprise.

Evangelism involves people being surprised at how kind God is.

It involves us kind, tolerant and patient like God.

We can create climates of disappointment. We can build up the hype and people are disappointed.

In a desire to raise faith we inflate things and say things that are not true.

**Good marketing strategy:** Under promise and over deliver.

It is disastrous to over promise and under deliver.

People need to be surprised.

Jesus said “don’t say anything about this!” Don’t hype. But have a quiet confidence that God will deliver.

Okay that was just an extra.

As we reflect on Jesus broken heart in the Garden of Gethsemane - besides self denial and demonstrated love and choosing God’s way ... I also see (and this is my fourth and last point) that Jesus ...

#### **(4) Embraces ultimate joy**

What enabled Jesus to go to the cross was that in his broken heartedness as he wept in the Garden of Gethsemane he embraced the ultimate joy.

Hebrews 12:2 says ...

*For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

What is joy => the anticipation of good.

Like a child waiting for Christmas - there is anticipation of good to come that brings strength and power into the mix.

Jesus had joy – he had the ultimate expectation of good as he went to the cross.

What was that joy?

It was the salvation of people whom he loved who were far from him.

The joy he embraced was that sinners were going to repent and find life.

People who were bound and on paths to destruction would find freedom and new life.



APPLICATION:

Why do we say – “I will pay the price

- the price of inconvenience
- the price of limitation.
- the price financially – I won't make that trip or acquire that thing ...
- what ever the self denial the sacrifice, I will pay the price for people I don't even know yet ...

Why?

Because I know that joy Jesus knew – the joy he set before him – I anticipate the goodness of some one sharing the life of God that he has given us through the sacrifice of his Son. I anticipate the goodness of some coming into freedom in Christ. I anticipate the miracle of a life turned around.

May God take the gifts you have and turn them outward.

Jesus wept in Gethsemane. His heart was broken for the lost that lead him in that act of self denial, of demonstrated love, to choose God's way, he embrace the joy set before him and went to the cross for you and me and for the all who are without God and without hope in the world.

AMEN

Let's pray.

What is stopping us – what is holding us back - in what areas have I been clinging to things that prevent me from following Jesus' example of broken heartedness for the lost?

I have been clinging to my 'free' time believing that I deserve it.  
That is a lie – I don't deserve it. God graciously gives me rest but I don't deserve it.

I have been reluctant to let go of my special times with my wife / husband.  
Lie = God does not care that I have time with my wife, God is not interested in my marriage.

I am unwilling to surrender the time I spend with my friends and family.  
Lie = God does not know what sort of friends I need.

I can't do that because I need my sleep.  
Lie = God does not know how my body clock works.

I am unwilling to surrender my comfortable house and all that is in it.  
Lie = I earned it after all. It is mine by hard work.

I am reluctant to surrender my TV watching – sport, movies.  
Lie = I am entitled to indulge in some mindless entertainment now and again.  
Jesus gave up his entitlements. He emptied himself and made himself nothing by taking on the very nature of a servant.

I take comfort and can excuse myself from doing certain things because I believe that I am not called to be an evangelist – or I don't have the gift of evangelism.  
Lie = God is unable to use me to bring others to Christ. It is beyond him. He has written me off and when it comes to choosing people does not even think I am worth considering.