

"BROKEN THINGS"

TEXT: 1 Kings 18:30

THESIS: To show how we allow things to be broken which need to be repaired.

INTRO.: A. The main problem with Christians is that they are human! Humans are the most inconsistent beings on the planet (apart from the supernatural ones). The Lord stated it eloquently when He said: *"...the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."* Mt.26:41 We make promises & break them, we make commitments & break them, we make decisions & break them. Each Christian needs to own up to the fact that he or she needs constant "repair" of the **"BROKEN THINGS"** in their lives. Some seem to feel that there is some kind of shame involved in admitting publicly that something is broken & needs to be fixed. But we are all human & therefore weak, even though we may be saved...

B. Let's make this a time of rebuilding the **"BROKEN THINGS."** Let's freely admit that we are weak, fleshly creatures & not allow our pride to keep us from rebuilding those things which we have allowed to deteriorate, wither, slip or slide.

I. BROKEN ALTARS:

1 Kings 18:30 *And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.*

A. An Altar Is A Place Of Sacrifice:

ILLUS.: It is hard to believe that Israel would allow God's altar to go unrepaired; it was central to their religious life! Without an altar there could be no sacrifice & w/out a sacrifice there was no forgiveness. But we are often guilty of the same thing.

1. What have you placed on an altar & taken back? (Some habit, sin, etc.?)
2. What altar no longer holds your sacrifice? (Because it is broken?)
3. What altar lies in a state of disrepair in your life? (What do you need to rebuild that was once strong?)

B. An Altar Is a Place of Death:

1. What is it that needs to die in your life: pride, selfishness, ambition, lust?
2. The 4 horns on the altar symbolized the cross of Calvary & the H.P. had to smear those horns w/blood each time an animal was slain & sacrificed.
3. We are reminded by Paul to be "crucified w/Christ" & to "die daily."

Rom.6:1-2 *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*

4. What altars *need* to be broken?

2 Chr.34:7 *And when he had broken down the altars and the groves, and had beaten the graven images into powder, and cut down all the idols throughout all the land of Israel, he returned to Jerusalem.*

ILLUS.: Like Israel, when we allow God's altar to be broken down, we usually erect another altar in its place, one where we place things not pleasing to God. While we need to rebuild our broken altars, we also need to destroy the substitute altars where we place those things God has forbidden.

II. BROKEN WALLS:

2 Chr.32:5 *Also he strengthened himself, and built up all the wall that was broken, and raised it up to the towers, and another wall without, and repaired Millo in the city of David, and made darts and shields in abundance.*

Neh.1:3 *And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.*

Neh.2:13 *And I went out by night by the gate of the valley, even before the dragon well, and to the dung port, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem, which were broken down, and the gates thereof were consumed with fire.*

Prov.24:30-31 *I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; 31 And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down.*

A. A Wall Is for Protection:

1. What wall have you allowed to fall?!

- a. What doctrinal wall? Sound doctrine protects us from heresy.
- b. What wall of conviction? Convictions protect us from perversion.
- c. What wall of standards? Standards protect us from worldliness.

2. What wall do you need to rebuild?

ILLUS.: When Nehemiah saw the broken walls of Jerusalem he wept, but then he decided to repair them. He was willing to leave a comfortable position as the King's cup-bearer, to jeopardize his life by making his request to the King. He was even discouraged by his own people & threatened by his enemies. But he refused to be deterred or detoured from what God had laid on His heart to do.

He first had to clear away the accumulated rubbish of years of neglect before he could begin rebuilding. How serious are you about rebuilding your walls?

III. BROKEN COVENANTS:

Jer.11:10 *They are turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers, which refused to hear my words; and they went after other gods to serve them: the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken my covenant which I made with their fathers.*

A. A Covenant is a Sacred Promise:

1. What promise have you failed to keep?
 - a. Personal or family devotions or Bible study?
 - b. Soul-winning?
 - c. Tithing?
 - d. Time with your family?
 - e. Faithfulness to church services?
 - f. Visiting your bus route?
 - g. Studying your lesson for S.S. more diligently?

IV. BROKEN VESSELS:

Ps.31:12b *I am like a broken vessel.*

A. A Vessel is Something Designed for Usefulness:

1. A vessel needs to be available.

ILLUS.: One of the greatest enemies of the best is the good. We have our lives so full of optional things that there is no place left for the necessary things! There is nothing wrong w/family, sports, a boat, an RV, yard sales, flea markets, some TV programs, novels, magazines, etc. – unless they keep us from the things God wants in our lives. (Christians say they have no time for soul-winning or Bible study, but they can spend literal hours watching or playing a ball game, going out to eat, yard sailing, boating, etc.)

2. A vessel needs to be clean.

ILLUS.: No one wanted to drink the water out of the vessel after I washed Pastor Delquadro's feet in it! God doesn't want to use a vessel on soul-winning after it has been defiled w/the world either.

3. A vessel may need to be broken.

ILLUS.: Gideon's pitchers had to be broken before the light could shine & victory could be won. When a vessel filled w/water is broken, water spills out. When a vessel filled w/coke is broken, coke spills out. If I am available, clean & filled w/the Spirit, the Holy Spirit flows out! We say if the vessel is broken, it can't be used. God says I can't use the vessel until it is broken! Do you want to be used of God?

CONCL.: Here are a few **"BROKEN THINGS"** every believer needs to concentrate on.

Broken altars (sacrifice – death) need to be rebuilt.

Broken walls need to be rebuilt. (doctrine – convictions – standards?)

Broken covenants (sacred promises) need to be restored.

Broken vessels (available – clean – broken) need to be available, clean & made useable.

Things left to themselves, w/out constant & proper maintenance will always deteriorate, decay & die. Let's rebuild, restore & rededicate right now!