

From Broken to Beautiful, a Changed Life

Digging Deeper

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You must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.

1 Peter 3:15 NLT

He had been crippled since birth and now sat beside the temple gate - the one called Beautiful - begging for a few coins to buy food. He was there every day, but most of those on their way to the temple never saw him or hurried on by. It seemed that being ignored and forgotten would be his lot in life.

Then one day, the apostles Peter and John walked by. He asked them for money, but they had none. Instead, Peter commanded in the name of Jesus that he get up and walk. He reached down and pulled the man to his feet, and in an instant he was healed. He walked into the temple with them, leaping with joy and praising God (Acts 3:1-8).

Broken people live in every town, are present in every workplace, sit in every church, and stand in plain sight of all of us every single day. They sometimes endure a menial existence and often live meaningless lives. And yet, they also live within arms length of being drawn into a beautiful life with Christ, if only someone would reach out and pull them closer to God. They are broken but living on the edge of real beauty, ready to be changed into the image of Christ.

A changed life comes about when we open our eyes and our hearts to those that the world has cast aside. To the world, broken people are often invisible or a nuisance. To those who know Jesus, they are a divine appointment that God has given us. God's constant presence in our life is what helps us see them. Our intimate relationship with Him is what allows His love to flow into them through us. And that love is what changes them, and us, and advances His kingdom.

A changed life can happen at any time and is a moment we must be ready for. It's the day, the hour or the instant that those who are broken first believe, and it is a beautiful site to behold. In that moment, God has something for us to do in the life of another human being, and we must be ready and prepared to give them the reason for our hope in Christ (2 Timothy 4:2, 1 Pet. 3:15). God is always at work drawing broken people to

Him through us (John 5:17). We must be ready for and expect that moment when His Word comes alive in their heart, and walk with them as their lives are changed forever.

Broken people are closer to us than we think. They're not "out there". They're our neighbors, co-workers, someone we meet on the street or in a store. Our mission field is not some far off place. It's right here, just a few steps from our front door. Broken people are all around us and they're just a moment away from that encounter with Jesus that will take them out of their brokenness and into a life of beauty.

Are you ready?

Reflect

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Pray

Heavenly Father, open my eyes and my heart to those who are broken and desperately in need of you. Help me reach out and show them the love of Jesus. Let the reason for the hope I have in Christ spring forth from my mouth and penetrate their heart. Give me the wisdom and the compassion I need to share your Word with them. And prepare me for that moment

when they first believe so that I may be able to walk by their side as they set out on the path you have laid before them and their lives are changed forever.

Amen.

Discuss

What do you feel and how do you respond when you see someone who is broken?

What is your reason for your hope in Christ?

Which one of the following will you do this week to prepare yourself for the moment when you're called on to help someone move from brokenness to beautiful?

1. Pray daily for the lost.
2. Listen daily for the Holy Spirit to lead you to them.
3. Find a Person of Peace - someone who is open to hearing the word of God - and lead them to Christ.
4. Have them throw a party for their friends
5. Let them tell their friends what Jesus has done for them.