

The Glory of Brokenness

March 31st, 2019 – BILLY HUMPHREY

I. Broken Heart and Open Heavens

Gen 7:11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

Isa 64:1 - 4 Oh, that You would rend the heavens! That You would come down! That the mountains might shake at Your presence— 2 As fire burns brushwood, As fire causes water to boil—To make Your name known to Your adversaries, That the nations may tremble at Your presence! 3 When You did awesome things for which we did not look, You came down, The mountains shook at Your presence. 4 For since the beginning of the world Men have not heard nor perceived by the ear, Nor has the eye seen any God besides You, Who acts for the one who waits for Him.

A. There is a connection between brokenness on the earth and the opening of the heavens.

B. When the earth is broken the heavens breakthrough

C. Jesus Christ is specifically anointed to heal the broken heart, give joy to the mournful, and release glory upon those who are burdened and weary.

Isaiah 61:1-3 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me; he has sent me to preach glad tidings to the poor, to heal the broken in heart, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind; 2 to declare the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of recompence; to comfort all that mourn; 3 that there should be given to them that mourn in Sion glory instead of ashes, the oil of joy to the mourners, the garment of glory for the spirit of heaviness: and they shall be called generations of righteousness, the planting of the Lord for glory.

II. Isaiah's Open Heaven

Isaiah 6:1-6 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" 4 And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts."

A. Uzziah's death was a death to the flesh

2Ch 26:16 But when he was strong his heart was lifted up, to his destruction, for he transgressed against the LORD his God by entering the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense.

1. When He was strong, His heart was lifted up.

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2. In the Flesh He tried to accomplish what the Lord was going to do, but had not ordained him to do.

3. He was more committed to the Lord's outcome than to obeying the Lord's ordination.

4. There is an ordained time for you when the flesh must die. The year that King Uzziah died was a year that the flesh died. And when the flesh died, Isaiah was finally able to see.

B. Encounter with God comes when the flesh dies.

C. "I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple"

1. Do you know the one who is High and lifted up? Whose glory fills every room that He inhabits?

2. The seraphim magnify the reality, His magnificence fills every crevice of the created order... "The whole earth is full of His glory!!"

III. Failures, brokenness, and breakthrough

A. Failure is a pathway to our brokenness. But brokenness is a pathway to our breakthrough

B. He dwells with the broken (Isa 57:15).

C. As long as we are repulsed by weakness we will repel God's power. In our weakness God's power is perfected (2Cor 12:9).

IV. Biblical failures

A. Moses – The murderer became the deliverer

B. David – The murder and adulterer was called a man after God's own heart

C. Peter – Denied Jesus at His arrest

D. Paul – Arrested and murdered Christians

E. "To what degree, therefore, must failure precede a true appropriation of one's calling? It was true for Paul and Moses, and needs to be for us. Are we willing for the humiliation of failure, allowed and established by God Himself, despite our best well-meaning intentions? It is only out of the debris and death of that failure, and the mortification of it, that a man can be formed whom God can send. Can a man be formed in any other way? There is something about failure, especially when it is born out of the best well-meaning intentions to serve God, that does the depth of work in the human soul like nothing else can...Peter failed dismally, but out of that great failure came a great apostle." Art Katz