

Admitting Our Brokenness

From Brokenness to Blessing #1 - Pastor Gary Combs - August 6, 2023 - Matthew 5:1-3; Romans 7:15-25

INTRO: (Interview Steve Winslow about CR) Good morning church! We are starting a new 8-week series entitled, “**From Brokenness to Blessing.**” The series is based on the eight blessings or beatitudes that Jesus declared in His Sermon on the Mount. These eight blessings of Jesus actually turn worldly wisdom upside down! For they declare that the world’s wisdom about finding happiness and blessing is actually the opposite of what is needed. The first blessing from Jesus is:

Matthew 5:1-3 (ESV) ¹ Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them. He said: ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

The “blessed” (μακάριος, *makarios*) means supremely happy and blessed. Blessed to the max (*macro*)! Jesus did not say what the world says, “Blessed are the rich and powerful.” No. He said...

Matthew 5:3 (GW) “Blessed are those who recognize they are spiritually helpless. The kingdom of heaven belongs to them.”

Jesus basically says that admitting our helplessness, our powerlessness, our brokenness is the first step towards experiencing a life of blessing. Or as Duck Dynasty’s Jase Robertson puts it:

“The first step to dealing with a problem is admitting that you have a problem.” — Jase Robertson

Need: We all have problems. We have hurts, habits, and hangups that we can’t overcome. It’s like something inside of us is broken and it leaves us powerless to change. We’re held captive and can’t get free! Let’s take a moment and consider some of the common hurts, habits, and hangups that we deal with:

HURTS: Abandonment, Abortion, Abuse, Adultery, Betrayal, Death, Divorce, Dysfunctional family, Grief, Neglect, Rape, Rejection, Unforgiveness...

HABITS: Abusive behavior, Alcoholism, Drug addiction, Eating disorders, Overeating, Gambling, Gossip, Isolation, Lying, Self-harm, Sexual Integrity problems, Spending problems, Workaholism, Pornography addiction...

HANGUPS: Anger, Anxiety, Arrogance, Body image, Bullying, Codependency, Control issues, Depression, Fear, Envy, Guilt, Hypochondria, Lack of self-control, Laziness, Materialism, People pleasing, Perfectionism, Pride, Procrastination

How many of these do you have problems with? How are you doing at overcoming these hurts, habits, and hangups? For most of us, no matter how hard we try, we find ourselves powerless to break free, so we continue to be held captive by them.

Trans: The apostle Paul wrote about these feelings of brokenness, of feeling powerless to change.

BODY: In Paul’s letter to the Romans, he described how admitting our brokenness can move us toward God’s blessing. We can see how admitting our brokenness can move us toward God’s blessing. How can admitting our brokenness move us toward God’s blessing? The text gives **three ways** admitting our brokenness can move us toward God’s blessing.

Read text: Romans 7:15-25 (ESV) ¹⁵ For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷ So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³ but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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HOW ADMITTING OUR BROKENNESS MOVES US TOWARD GOD'S BLESSING:

1. It recognizes the REASON: Our sin nature.

EXP: (15-17) Look at v.17. Circle the phrase "sin that dwells within me." This is the reason for our brokenness, namely, our sin nature.

"Sin" (17, 20, 23) (ἁμαρτία, *hamartia*) – Lit., "to miss the mark." The sin nature is that aspect in man that makes him rebellious against God. It refers to our natural inclination to sin; given the choice to do God's will or our own, we will naturally choose to do our own thing. Paul calls this natural inclination "the law of sin."

ARG: **Our sin nature is the reason for our brokenness.**

Romans 7:18 (NLT) And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't.

We are all sinners.

Romans 3:23 (NLT) For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

ILL: As sinners, we put ourselves in God's place. We play the part of God, trying to be in control. We try to control our image (Facebook, Instagram...), other people, our problems, our pain.

APP: Will you recognize the reason for your brokenness? We're all born with this universal human condition called the sin nature. It causes us to do and think things contrary to God's will and even contrary to our own. Are you willing to look in the mirror today and recognize your problem?

2. It acknowledges the RESULTS:

EXP: (18-24) Notice how Paul describes the results or consequences of his brokenness due to sin:

Powerless to change

"Not the ability" (18) (κατεργάζομαι, *katergazomai*) - unable, powerless, not able to work it out.

Bad habits

"Keep on doing" (19) (πράσσω, *prassō*) - to exercise, practice, to be busy with, carry on. Paul said that he kept on doing the evil he didn't want to do.

Frustration

"Waging war" (23) (ἀντιστρατεύομαι, *antistrateuomai*) - to oppose, war against. Old man vs. new man.

Miserable

"Wretched" (24) (ταλαίπωρος, *talaipōros*) - Beaten down, deep misery, afflicted, very poor.

ARG: **The chief result of sin is death.**

Romans 6:23 (ESV) For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Not acknowledging our sin makes us feel miserable.

Psalm 32:3-5 (TLB) ³ There was a time when I wouldn't admit what a sinner I was. But my dishonesty made me miserable and filled my days with frustration. ⁴ All day and all night your hand was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water on a sunny day ⁵ until I finally admitted all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide them. I said to myself, "I will confess them to the Lord." And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.

ILL:

APP: Will you acknowledge the results, the consequences of your sinfulness, your brokenness? Own it. Stop blaming others and start confessing your sins to God for forgiveness.

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3. It confesses our need for RESCUE: Jesus!

EXP: (24-25) Look at v. 24. Paul is at the end of his rope. “Who will deliver me from this body of death?” Who will rescue me from my sinful and powerless self?

“Deliver” (24) (ῥύομαι, *rhuomai*) - to draw to one's self, to rescue, to deliver.

ARG: **Jesus is the only One who can rescue us!**

Romans 7:24 (GNT) ²⁴ What an unhappy man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is taking me to death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God, who does this through our Lord Jesus Christ!

ILL: I am really struck by the lyrics of Lauren Daigle's song “Rescue.” The singer is speaking from God's perspective and says:

“I hear the whisper underneath your breath
I hear you whisper, you have nothing left
I will send out an army to find you
In the middle of the darkest night
It's true, I will rescue you”

APP: Will you confess your need for rescue? In our **Celebrate Recovery** ministry we lead people through 8 steps to recovery.

The first step to R.E.C.O.V.E.R.Y: (8 principles based on the Beatitudes)

Realize I'm not God. I admit I'm powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and my life is unmanageable.

Will you admit that...

- ... I'm powerless to change my past.
- ... I'm powerless to control other people.
- ... I'm powerless to cope with my harmful habits

Admitting we are powerless is an act of humility. It puts us in a position to receive God's grace.

James 4:6 (ESV) ...“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

GRACE IS: God's gift.

What does grace do for you? It gives you God's power to make changes in your life. It's the power to change. How do you get God's grace? Only one way, God gives grace to the humble. He gives it to those who admit their need for RESCUE, who admit their need for JESUS!

CONCLUSION: Will you admit your brokenness and call on Jesus to save you and put you on the move from brokenness to a life of blessing?

Will you decide to trust Christ today? And having trusted Him, in the power of Christ, will you surrender your hurts, habits, and hangups to Him?

Let's pray...

“Jesus, have mercy on us. We admit our brokenness, our sinfulness, our powerlessness. Rescue us...”