

Thursday, January 13

Read Mark 14:3-9. There is a difference in opinion about the identity of the woman who anointed Jesus at the home of Simon the Leper. That difference in opinion arises because of the difference between the four gospels; she is unnamed in Matthew and Mark's gospels, she is a sinner in Luke's gospel and she is identified as Mary, the sister of Lazarus and Martha in John's gospel. The beauty of her remaining unnamed in Matthew and Mark is that we may be able to more easily identify with her.

We can safely assume that she has experienced some brokenness in her life; she is certainly thankful to Jesus and expresses deep love for him. The woman's actions demonstrate the anointing of a King as well as anticipate Jesus' death. She breaks the jar, giving all in honor of Jesus. How are you thankful for what Jesus had done for you in healing your brokenness? What actions can you take to honor Jesus? Contemplate these ideas and questions and record your response here.

Friday, January 14

Read Mark 14:22-24. The broken jar from earlier in this chapter in Mark's gospel is symbolic of so much and it is even symbolic of Jesus' brokenness – his body which was broken for us and his blood which was shed for us. Jesus' life was the cost of our salvation – our wholeness and healing. It is a high price but one that we do not have to pay. Jesus' body was broken so that our lives could be whole. This is extravagant, sacrificial love. It is the purpose of the man whose birth we celebrated just over two weeks ago. What gift can you offer in return for the wholeness we are offered by God through Jesus the Christ? Meditate on these thoughts and write your reflections here.

Message Notes – January 9, 2022

*Praying for Change – Break Me O God**

- I. How can we live _____ for God's purposes if our prayers aren't _____?
 - A. Three prayers that can be summed up in two words each: _____ me, _____ me and _____ me.
 - B. Make it or break it experiences were present during my _____ years.
 - C. We say make it or break it moments but I'm not sure it's an _____-_____ moment.
 1. Often our brokenness leads to _____; we come to moments in our lives when we realize our brokenness and our need for wholeness.
 2. When we seek restoration in our relationships with God and others, we are seeking _____.
- II. If Jesus is without _____ – without _____ – then why did he come to be baptized by John?
 - A. Jesus was there to _____ with our brokenness.
 - B. Jesus' baptism was also a moment of _____.
 - C. Jesus' baptism is also a moment of _____ and _____.
 - D. It was a moment of Jesus being _____ for his mission and ministry
- III. In reading and preparing for this message, I read a lot of accounts of people _____ brokenness and _____ toward wholeness.
 - A. I don't believe that God is pulling levers or strings in order that we become broken; but rather God will _____ our brokenness for God's purposes.
 - B. Jesus brings _____ to our brokenness; our spiritual brokenness and our broken relationships with God and others.

*Mark 1:9-13 and Mark 14:3-9, 22-24

- IV. In Mark's gospel, the 14th chapter, we find Jesus gathered with in the house of _____ the Leper.
- An unnamed woman enters with a jar of very expensive perfume – breaks the jar open and _____ Jesus with it.
 - Mark doesn't _____ the woman; he just let us know of the extravagance of her actions.
 - It was an extravagant action that Jesus deemed a _____ service which she has done for him.
 - Actually, the word Jesus used that is translated "good" is better translated as _____.
- V. In addition to the extravagant display of love, there are some _____ threads that run through this account.
- First, the woman anointed Jesus' head which is the customary practice in anointing a _____.
 - Second, the anointing is also a precursor to the anointing of the _____.
 - Third, the container of precious oil was often broken in _____ of a distinguished person.
 - Finally, when a body was laid in a _____, the jar which contained the oil would be broken and laid around the body.
 - The broken jar can also be symbolic of the brokenness we _____ experience.
 - The broken jar is symbolic of _____ brokenness.
 - 13 verses later we read about Jesus, at the Last Supper with his disciples, taking the bread and _____ and saying, "Take, this is my body."
 - To pray the prayer, "Break me, O God" is to ask God to redeem us; to make our lives count for something _____ and _____ and _____ in this world.

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian. It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, January 10

The message began with a discussion of "make it or break it" experiences. How would you define "make it or break it?" Have you had many such experiences? Revisit one of those experiences, review the details in your mind and record how you dealt with that era in your life. How well did you cope during that time? Did you emerge a stronger person? In what ways? Meditate on these questions and write your response here.

Tuesday, January 11

Read Mark 1:9-13. Perhaps you found that you emerged from the "make it or break it" experience discussed yesterday a stronger person. Perhaps it was a very negative time in your life. When we are able to embrace our brokenness, we recognize our need for salvation. Pastor Jack defined salvation as wholeness; when we seek restoration in our relationships with God and others, we are seeking salvation. This is a process of recognizing our brokenness and our need for deliverance. And there was this man whose very name means "salvation" or "to deliver or rescue." That man was Jesus the Christ. How would you define salvation? Do you need saving? Write your thoughts here.

Wednesday, January 12

Read Mark 1:9-13. Think about the baptism of Jesus as an affirmation of his mission and ministry and of his identity as the Messiah – the Christ. Think about the baptism of Jesus as a moment of decision – the beginning of Jesus' public ministry – and how the opening of heaven and the descent of the dove implies Jesus' being equipped for his mission and ministry. While some still question the reason for Jesus' baptism, these ideas may very well be a valid way of viewing Jesus' Baptism. Consider these ideas and write your own ideas here.