

What to Do When We Break God's Heart

1. *“Then those of you who escape will remember...**how I have been hurt by their adulterous hearts** which turned away from Me, and by their eyes, which played the harlot after their idols, and they will loathe themselves in their own sight for the evils which they have committed, for all their abominations. Then they will know that I am the Lord...” Ezekiel 6:9,10a*

Read the verses from Ezekiel and **ask yourself:**

1. What breaks God's heart?
2. In what ways have I turned away from Him and been enticed by the world?
3. In what ways has the body of Christ in our nation turned away from God and been enticed by the world?

Take action:

1. Begin by asking God to allow you to be appalled by what appalls Him.
2. Also ask Him to reveal every area in which your/our unfaithfulness has appalled Him.
3. Take time to recount, confess, and mourn each area of unfaithfulness.

2. *“But this is what I commanded them, saying, ‘Obey My voice and I will be your God, and you will be My people...that it may be well with you.’ Yet they did not obey or incline their ear...” Jeremiah 7:23,24*

“Then death shall be chosen rather than life...” Jeremiah 8:3

Take time to read Deuteronomy 30:15-20 in which God set before His people a stark choice. Choose life and blessings or death or curses. The choice would not be made evident with their words but by their actions.

When we live like the world and make the selfish, entitled actions the world makes, our choice is evident to God.

Ask yourself:

In what ways do I demonstrate my love for God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength and my love for my neighbor in the same way I love myself with my time? my resources? my heartfelt concern?

Take action:

Ask God to show you your priorities the way He sees them.

3. *“...the people of Israel and the princes and the Levities have not separated themselves from the people of the lands, according to their abominations... indeed, the hands of the princes and the rulers have been foremost in this unfaithfulness. And when I heard...I tore my garment and my robe...and sat down appalled...until the evening offering.” from Ezra 9:1-4*

In addition to widespread spiritual adultery, the body of Christ has allowed to persist:

- 27,000 people die of starvation today
- 150 million people remain without a roof over their heads today
- 425,000 children remain in foster care rather than forever homes
- 125,000 abortions per day

It may sound shocking to say we've allowed it, but we have a priority problem and a distribution problem—mostly because we have a discipleship problem.

Ask yourself:

Could we impact the problems of hunger, homelessness, trafficking, and orphan care if we lived as and made disciples in the way Jesus intended?

What can I do to help?

Remember: Prayer IS doing something and should be the first action we take.

4. *“But at the evening offering I arose from my humiliation, even with my garment and my robe torn, and I fell on my knees and stretches out my hands to the Lord my God; and I said, ‘Oh my God, I am ashamed and embarrassed to lift up my face to Thee, my God, for our iniquities have risen above our heads, and our guilt has grown even to the heavens...” Ezra 9:6,7*

How might God respond if WE owned the sin in our nation and in our own hearts?

What if WE were ashamed and embarrassed over OUR sin?

What if we fell on our knees and stretched out our hands to God and truly repented?

What does God's Word say about His response to repentance?

Read 2 Chronicles 7:14

Ask yourself:

- If a great awakening in our church, our city, our state, our nation could begin with my complete surrender and repentance, would I be willing to live all-out for God?
- Would I walk away from the worldliness I've embraced?
- Why not pray, "Begin with me, Lord?" and let the awakening begin.

5. *"But now for a brief moment grace has been shown from the Lord our God, to leave us an escaped remnant and to give us a peg in His holy place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and grant us a little reviving in our bondage... O Lord God of Israel...behold we are before Thee in our guilt, for no one can stand before Thee because of this." Ezra 9:8,15*

"We live in a broken world and we have the solution." David Nasser

*"Hungry people can't hear 'Jesus is the bread of life' when their stomachs are empty."
DN*

"Meeting needs buys the ticket to speak eternal truth into the lives of people in desperate situations." DN

A great awakening begins with a few simple steps:

- individual recognition of our own sin
- individual grief over our sin
- genuine, individual repentance of sin
- true God-driven change in our lives
- all-consuming love for God
- willingness to love and serve our neighbors as ourselves

Take action:

Take the first step in a great awakening and a mighty move of God by humbling yourself before Him in whatever position you choose, list and repent of your sin one by one, and ask God to help you love as He loves and serve as He loves.

Sounds simple? It's easier than you think. Begin with the prayer of Ezra. "Oh God..."