

THE BULLETIN

God Uses Broken Things

If something is broken, we generally discard it. However, God uses broken things to accomplish His purposes.

God used broken pitchers (Judges 7). Gideon conquered the Midianites by putting their lamps within pitchers; at his direction, the soldiers broke their pitchers and revealed the light, which greatly confused the Midianites, and they were defeated. The light of truth is often hidden by error, and it is when the error is broken that the light is revealed.

God used broken tables of stone (Exodus 32). Aaron had erected the golden calf because Moses had been gone and the people thought they had been abandoned. When Moses came down off the mount and saw what was happening, *'he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them'* (Exodus 32:19). He then took the golden calf, burned it in the fire, and ground it to powder. Next, he put it in the water supply and made the people drink it (Exodus 32:20). We must get rid of the world from our lives.

God used a broken alabaster box (Mark 14). *'and she brake the box, and poured it on his head'* (Mark 14:3). With this, the woman did what she could; we also must do what we can. God used the broken body of Jesus (Matthew 26). When He instituted the Lord's Supper, Jesus took bread and blessed it (Matthew 26). Paul later wrote, praising the Lord, *'Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you'* (1 Corinthians 11:24). Note from the Scripture that His bones were not broken: *'A bone of him shall not be broken'* (John 19:36; Psalm 34:20).

God used the broken heart of David (Psalm 51). We must have a broken heart over our sin. David said, *'A broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise'* (Psalm 51:17).

Yes, God uses broken things. Perhaps your life has been broken by sin, but unlike Humpty Dumpty and the king's horses and men, God can put it back together again.

Larry Acuff

The Manchester church of Christ

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Our Ministers:

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Gerry Millette 497-3105

Our Deacons:

Finance - Tony Casella
Education - Doug Paul
Building & Grounds - Will
Hamel / Pete Steffensen
Benevolence & Outreach -
David Skerry

Regularly Scheduled Services

Sunday worship: 9:30am
Sunday Bible class: 11:00am
Sunday evening: 6:00pm
Wednesday Bible class: 7:00pm


The whole idea of
belonging to Christ is to
look less and less like we
used to and more and
more like Him.



Family News

"So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith."
Galatians 6:10, NAS95.

If you're a visitor to our church, welcome! If you have questions, we welcome them; please don't hesitate to ask Park Linscomb our minister (the really tall guy) or any other church member.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

WED NIGHT SUPPER

Freda and Barbara S are fixing dinner Wed. night. They are making pulled-pork sandwiches, cold slaw and dessert. A signup sheet is in the back of the auditorium. Please add your name to the list.

NEEDED: MORE WED NIGHT COOKS: We need people to sign up from Oct. 26 forward.

GROUND CARE: This building belongs to all of us and we need to tend to the exterior. Bring the kids to work as a family. Soon, a signup sheet will be posted for Snow Removal (maybe you get lucky and it doesn't snow your week!!!)

MNFM COOKS NEEDED: Sign-up sheet in the back of the auditorium.

LORD'S SUPPER TO SHUT INS: Brian Cleavitt & Louise Roy are taking communion for Oct. & Nov. Need volunteers beginning in Dec.

**NEED HELP,
ASAP
WE NEED A NEW
JANITOR. PLEASE
SEE AN ELDER OR
CALL THE CHURCH
OFFICE.**

NEW - ELECTRONIC LIBRARY

We have added media to the library. Please come use out assets. We will add a set of CDs from this year's Ladies Retreat.

NEW PRAYER CONCERNS: The Edgewood Congregation's Spiritual Health, Casey Jones, Lynn Millette, Thom Forestburg, Brian Day, Malachi Norris, Geneva Baum



THANKS

**A HUGE
thank you to
all who
attended and
helped with
the seminar**

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS: Ministers, Elders, Deacons, Teachers, Parents, Gander Brook

ADDITIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS are on the back page of the Worship Insert

DON'T OPEN THAT DOOR

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.
- GENESIS 4:6-7 MSG

A Word of Encouragement

"For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it."
Hebrews 2:1, NAS95.

BEING ANANIAS

Ananias doesn't get a lot of sermons done about him. I've never read a bulletin article about him. I'm not sure that I've ever heard of a church named "St. Ananias". But he played a key role in one of the most important events of Gentile Christianity; Ananias was the man who baptized the apostle Paul. And there's some important things we can learn from his brief but crucial mention in the Bible.

Getting a Scary Assignment

Saul of Tarsus had quite an anti-Christian reputation. It may have not been widely known that Saul had held the coats of those who stoned Stephen, but word of mouth had already carried the news among the disciples of Jesus in Damascus that he was on his way to the city to arrest, imprison, and persecute anyone who had believed in Jesus. He was clearly someone to avoid at all costs. And Ananias had planned to avoid him.

That is, until the Lord came to him with an assignment: "'Ananias...Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him, so that he might regain his sight" (Acts 9:10-12). But Ananias objected, "...Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Your saints at Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name" (Acts 9:13, 14). Can you blame him?

Can you identify? Of course, we seldom get an assignment from the Lord so fraught with danger, but we still have a similar assignment that tends to scare many of us almost to death, "Go make disciples..."

Showing Faith and Showing Up

Brave Ananias, however, didn't make excuses, didn't put it off, and didn't wait for someone else to do it. Ananias takes, no doubt, a deep breath and heads off to Straight Street, asking for a certain Judas with a guest named Saul. He acts in faith, not knowing exactly how it would turn out—he might have been walking right into martyrdom for all he knew.

Of course, it could be argued that the Lord gave him extra motivation: "...Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake" (Acts 9:15, 16).

But who's to say that the person that you need to speak to about the Gospel won't also have a very important purpose in the Lord's plan.

Showing faith and showing up is all the Lord is looking for from us, too.

Showing Love

Knowing who Saul of Tarsus was, knowing what he'd done, knowing why he'd come to Damascus, it's easy to imagine that not only was Ananias anxious, but perhaps even a little angry. But none of that showed. Notice that he laid his hands on him (in a healing way) and said, "...Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 9:17). Brother? Regain your sight? I can only imagine how those gestures of love from one of those "hated Christians" must have effected the now conscience-stricken Saul.

And there's another great lesson here, too. Love is the key to effective evangelism. Love for the sinner; love for the Savior; love of God's grace. As the saying goes, people don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care.

Following Through

Once telling Saul what he needed to do to be saved ("Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name." Acts 22:16), Ananias baptized Saul and it is implied that he fed him (v. 19). But there had to have been more, because Ananias would have been the only disciple of Jesus who would have trusted him, at least at first. Ananias introduced him to other Christians, who fellowshiped with Saul and gave him at least encouragement, if not a few Jesus-stories, before he began proclaiming Jesus as Lord in the synagogues in Damascus.

The lost need the message, certainly, but they also need you. You. Your care, your fellowship, your introductions to brothers and sisters, your encouragement, your help, your friendship.

There's no doubt about it, the Lord chose the right guy, when he chose Ananias. A man of courage, faith, love, and follow through.

Park Linscomb



UPCOMING EVENTS

- *Oct. 21-23 - Marriage & Family Seminar - Thanks for all of the help and for being a part of it.
- *Oct. 30 - Trunk or Treat - 5-7pm. Snacks must be prepackaged
- *Get your costumes ready and come have fun.
- *Sign up sheet in the foyer
- *Small package for best decorated car.
- *Calendars for November and December can be found in the foyer.
- *Youth Rally Registration Forms are in the Foyer. They are due back by October 30.

Food for Thought...

"So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's troubles are enough for today."
Matt 6:34 NLT

Often times we think about our laundry list of things that have to be done. Man that list is long. Sometimes I feel as if that list will never end. Being someone who has calendars to plan, schedules to make for employees, and events to create, I often find myself looking at everything that has to be done tomorrow or later on.

When we start focusing on everything but what we are currently needing to do it can stress us out but it also can keep us from spending the

time we need with God.

We need to focus on what needs to be done today. Today has enough troubles in it's own.

When we focus on today we can get done what needs to be done today. We also can find time to be with God and prioritize Him. What is more important, time with God or the paper that is due in 2 weeks?

My point is this... Instead of worrying about everything else let's focus on today. Let's focus on our lives today with God. Let's leave tomorrow on the hook that is labeled tomorrow and grab our backpack that contains today.

Mark Casella

Thought Provoking Question: *When was the last time you truly spend time alone with God? What is keeping you from this time?*

Family Bible Reading and Congregational Calendar for October 23 - October 29

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23 - Ezekiel 30-32 Worship @ 9:30am Bible class @ 11am Bldg sm grp-- 6pm	24 - I Peter 4 Jon Potter, Jr - BD	25 - Ezekiel 33-34	26 - I Peter 5 6pm - Wed Night Supper 7pm Bible Study	27 - Ezekiel 35-36	28 - 2 Peter 1 Diane Beard - BD	29 - Ezekiel 37-38