

Video – **Debunked 5** – WHM

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18

If your heart is broken, you'll find God right there; if you're kicked in the gut, he will help you catch your breath. (MSG)

I heard about a mountain climber who was severely injured after he fell into crevice. Immediately, his friends came to his aid and lowered a rope encouraging him to grab it. But he said, "I can't. My arms are broken." They replied, "Then wrap it around your legs!" He replied, "I can't... My legs are broken too. So they told him, "Bite down on the rope and we'll slowly pull to you up. As they're pulling him up, one of the friends yelled, "Almost there. How are you doing?" And w/out thinking, the guy replied, "I'm okaaaaaaaaaay!"

You may or may not find this story humorous – but the truth of the matter is we live in a hurting and broken world that's quickly falling away toward disaster and destruction.

Everywhere we turn... Everywhere we look... Everywhere we go... we discover broken hearts, broken homes, broken hopes, and broken lives. And it is not only sad – it's scary!

We can hardly pick up a newspaper, turn on the TV, or get online w/out finding suffering, violence, poverty, war, pain, death, and more. **The brokenness breaks our hearts.** Just this week, we witnessed the horror of a man entering into a church to kill 9 innocent people b/c of their skin tone.

Yet in the midst of living in a broken world – there's hope! And this hope is found in none other than Jesus Christ! He is the only hope for our world. He is our only peace! And God has called those of us who have experienced His peace to be peacemakers by sharing His love and grace w/ others.

W/ this in mind, and w/ the summer upon us – including countless ministry/mission opportunities surrounding us from mission trips to cookouts w/ our neighbors/friends, I wanted to take some time to prepare us for the amazing opportunities we will have to talk w/ our friends, family, and neighbors about the amazing grace of our Savior. Today, I want to speak to you about not only living for Christ, but also speaking God's love w/ others.

Why? B/c there is something worse than being lost and that is being lost and having no one looking for you.

Tony Evans tells a story of a young boy visiting Disney World for the 1st time – and of course, he was absolutely astounded – amazed by everything he saw – the castle, the characters, the rides.

He was so overwhelmed he didn't realize he had wandered away from his parents and was lost. Frantic, his parents were looking everywhere for their lost son when they decided to turn to park security. W/in minutes, security located the son and he was reconciled w/ his parents.

In many ways, this is the role of the church and Christians. Many people in our world have unknowingly wandered from the love of the Father – caught up in the allure of the world. So God has called us to help the lost to be found and the broken to be restored. But it requires that we not only walk Christ but also talk Christ too.

The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart – and rescues (saves) all who have a contrite spirit. Ps. 34:18

Psalm 34 reminds us that while we live in a broken and lost world, God has neither abandoned nor forgotten about us.

I The BEAUTY of God's Design (Circle 1)

In contrast to the broken world we live in, the Bible tells us this wasn't God's initial design – when God created the world, His design was good and free of brokenness.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth... Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. Genesis 1:1, 31

God created a perfect world. And He also created man w/ a Divine purpose to worship and walk w/ Him.

But here's the thing.

- When we try to do things our way...
- When we disobey God...
- When we ignore God and His design for our lives...

Life gets messed up leading to brokenness and lostness.

The Bible calls this selfish insistence – **SIN**! And sin occurs when we turn from God's perfect way to a way that seems right to us. Here's the thing – **we all sin and distort God's original design and desire for our life.**

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:23

What is the result or consequence of our sin?

For the wages of sin is death... Romans 6:23a

The consequence of our sin is separation from God – not only in this life, but for all of eternity.

This leads me to the 2nd truth I want you to see this AM. Not only is there – The Beauty of God's Design, but sadly, as we've already mentioned, there is...

Sin always leads to brokenness. No matter who you are or what you've – sin always leads to brokenness/lostness.

Here's what happens.

- When we realize everything in our life is messed up...
- When we realize everything – IN us, AROUND us, and BEFORE us is broken, **we begin looking for a way out**

Sadly, we tend to go after anything and everything hoping to somehow, someday fill up the emptiness in our hearts and fix the brokenness in our lives.

Some people will turn to:

- Alcohol or drugs
- Illicit sexual relationships
- Pouring time and attention into the job
- Playing sports or enjoying a hobby
- Intellectualism – learn everything about everything
- Religion and church

You see, the brokenness and emptiness in our life drives us to the place where we realize we need something better.

...who exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creation rather than the Creator. Rom. 1:25

The only problem is that every way man thinks up and tries apart from God's way is a cul de sac – a dead-end.

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death. Proverbs 14:12

I don't know about you, but I think it's more than obvious we need a remedy. We need some "Good News."

III The BLESSING of the Gospel (Circle 3)

And here is the Good News for every one of us.

- God loves you!
- God loves me!
- And God has provided a solution to the problem of our sin

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

The Bible says Jesus came to earth and lived a perfect, sinless life to rescue us from sin and do for us what we cannot do for ourselves – He paid for the debt of our sin laying down His life for our sin on the cross and on the 3rd day raising from the dead.

Why did He do this? B/c there was no other way for a person to be rescued and restored in our relationship w/ God other than the cross and resurrection.

Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures... He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Now, pay real close attention as I prepare to close this morning's very simple message.

- Just hearing this “Good News” isn't enough
- Just nodding your head in agreement isn't enough
- Just believing w/ your mind what the Bible says isn't enough

No, we must:

- Admit our sin and brokenness and need to be rescued
- Stop trusting in earthly items and trying to fix it ourselves
- Confess we don't have the power to escape this on our own
- Turn to God for His forgiveness and grace by placing our faith in Him alone for His healing and hope

This is what it means to repent and believe.

- We turn from our sin to Jesus
- We do this by believing in Jesus and receiving eternal life

Have you done that? If not, you can do that today. You can talk to God. You can tell Him how you feel.

God, my life is broken – I recognize its b/c of my sin. I need you. I believe Jesus came to live, die, and was raised from the dead – to rescue me from my sin. Forgive me. I turn from my selfish ways and put my trust in You.

When you do this – God will restore your relationship to Him. And when God restores your relationship w/ Him, you will begin to discover meaning/purpose in the middle of a broken world. B/c once you've repented of your sin and believed the Good News of the Gospel, the Bible says God's Spirit will empower you to recover His Design and assure you of His presence in this life and for all of eternity.

You say, “What do I need to do?”

If you confess w/ your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9

So **BELIEVE**. And once you've believed – Go **TELL** your story. **I made this decision as a 12 yr. old boy.**

Teachers – I want to encourage you to share your story today in your small group.