If It Ain't Broke, Break It!

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Who Needs Brokenness?

God wants to bless you.
But if you want to be blessed, you have got to be broken.
We learn about this in the story of an insignificant boy and his pitiful offering to Jesus. Like all of us, this boy held something of significance in his hands. Had he not let it go, a miracle would never have happened.
You need brokenness. Why? Because God’s miracles in your life can never be accomplished if you have not been broken to receive his will.
That’s why I like to say: If it ain’t broke … break it!

A Miraculous Meal

The following Bible story happened immediately after Jesus received some distressing news: His cousin, John the Baptist, had just been murdered by King Herod.

When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.” Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.” “We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered. “Bring them here to me,” he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children. – Matthew 14:13-21

Jesus, having heard the bad news about John, gathered his disciples and said, “Let’s go find a solitary place and just chill out, regroup, and get ready for what God has ahead of us.” The text tells us that they went by boat to another part of the region where they hoped to find a little solitude and isolation from the crowds. But the Sea of Galilee is not that big and the people followed them on foot, and they could see exactly where the boat was going. So when Jesus landed, a large crowd was already on the shore. Now they’re standing there grinning because they’re getting the proximity to Jesus that they wanted. They have sick people who need healing, and they want to be blessed by Jesus. They want as much of his attention as they can get.

Now Jesus clearly desired to spend a little time with his disciples in isolation. But the Bible says that when Jesus landed and saw this large crowd of people, his heart was full of compassion. So he began to minister to them. He understood that he came to seek and to save that which was lost, so he fulfilled that purpose of ministering to their needs. He began to go among the people and touch them and listen to what was going on in their lives. He healed the sick among them. This work took some time, because in verse 15, as evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.”

Jesus Gives a Pop Quiz

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Can you imagine that scene? Jesus has spent hours in the crowd ministering to people, and now it’s getting late. The disciples are undoubtedly getting hungry themselves, but they don’t want to sound selfish, so they say, “Jesus it's getting late, and these people have walked from far away. This will be a good time to send them away so they can go get themselves something to eat.” Implicit in that, you can almost hear the disciples saying, “Get these folks out of here so we can get on with our lives and find ourselves some dinner!”

But Jesus says, “No. We don't need to do that. You are right that they need to eat, so you feed them.”

Jesus knew quite well that his disciples were hungry too, but he wanted to turn this moment into a case study and illustration that would teach his disciples an important lesson. That fact is underscored by John’s account of the same story:

“When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Phillip, ‘Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?’ He asked this only to test them, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.” – John 6:5-6

So Jesus wasn't just figuring this out as he went. He was planning an important training session for his disciples.

Jesus’ question, “Where shall we buy bread for these people?” was a test. He was waiting to see who would partner with him in the miracle that was needed.

Phillip comes back with the natural answer in verse 7: “Eight months wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have even a bite.” In other words, “Good idea, Jesus. Nice that you have compassion. Nice that you want to feed them, but we can't afford it. We don't have the resources.”

John goes on to say that the disciple Andrew went a step further and said, “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish. But how far will they go among so many?”

Andrew knew about the boy because he had gone and done a little inventory, a little search around this group. All he found was one boy with five small barley loaves and two fish. Put together, that makes two fish sandwiches with a little leftover bread. But what would that do when we're talking about thousands of people? And by the way, the Bible says that there were five thousand men, which would add up to well over ten thousand people when we account for the women and children.

Ten thousand-plus people, and all you got to work with is a couple of fish sandwiches!? But Jesus says, “Don’t send them away. I want you to feed them.”

Listen to me now: What is the essential thing that is necessary in order for this miracle to take place?

The essential thing is that someone be willing to surrender something to Jesus, no matter how meager and insufficient that something might be.

When Jesus heard about this small sacrifice, he said, “Alright now! Bring it to me and let me show you what mighty miracles God can do.”

**Open Your Hands and Surrender All**

A couple of fish sandwiches in your hands will only feed you, but Jesus says, “Let me show you what can happen when you open your hands and release that insufficient gift into my hands. It doesn’t matter how pitiful it is in your hands.

We're not talking about what you can do. We're talking about what I can do with what you give me. “Bring it to me,” Jesus says.
This is a powerful word for us today. I want to tell you that God desires to work miracles in your life. He wants to turn your little famines into feasts. But what is the essential step that must occur before this miracle can happen?

*Jesus requires that you simply give to him what you're trying to hold onto.*

This should not be that difficult to do, because the thing you hold in your hands is pitiful. Your money in your hands is pitiful, but in God's hands it can produce a miracle. Your marriage in your hands is pitiful, but in God’s hands you will see miracles. The same is true with your kids, your parents, your friends, your career, your ministry, your life. How long have you have been trying to make something of the things that you hold onto so tightly in your hands, but they still look as pitiful as ever?

The Kingdom of God has different laws than the kingdom of man. The first law of the flesh is self-preservation, whereas the first law of the Kingdom is self-denial. Self-denial means not holding on and not hoarding. Self-preservation means saying, “No, you can't have my fish sandwich. It’s mine.” When you see all the hungry people with hungry looks on their faces, you say, “It’s not my problem that you all didn't bring anything out here to eat. You knew we had to walk a long way, then stand here a long time trying to talk to Jesus. You knew that would take some time. You could have brought your own brown bag lunch if you’d thought ahead like I did.”

That's the way we are in the flesh, holding tightly to our lunch while hoping for an unlikely miracle. But we forget that, “The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof.” (Psalms 24:1; KJV) The entire world and everything about your life belongs to God. But God doesn’t force his ways upon you. He doesn't make you surrender to him. He waits to see what you will offer him.

Romans 12:1 says: “I beseech you brothers by the mercies of God that you present your bodies as living sacrifices.” (KJV) “I beseech you,” he says. “I won’t yank it from you. I am looking for those who say, 'I want to give.'”

*The first law of serving Christ is self-denial.* I will surrender what I have – my thoughts, my feelings, my desires, my will, my resources – I will surrender *everything* into the hands of a God who can work miracles. This God will use them to make a difference not only in my life, but in the lives of many, many others who will be blessed by our miracle-working God.

You have heard the enemy whispering in your ear, “You can’t surrender that area of your life to the Lord. He can’t be trusted. He will discard your desires and needs. He will leave you hanging. You can’t afford to let that part of your life go.”

He’s been lying like that since the beginning of time, when he first told Eve, “You won’t die by disobeying God. You’ll become like him, and he doesn’t want you to become like him.” The enemy always twists reality about the things that are in your hands.

It's only when you say, “Yes, Lord, I present this as a living sacrifice,” that you discover that self-denial doesn't lead to self-destruction.

Romans 12:1 in a modern translation reads, “I urge you brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to present yourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, which is your spiritual act of worship.”

This kind of *worship through surrender* says, “Here is my plan, Lord, but if that's not your will, I yield to what you want to do. Here's how I want to use this, Lord, but if that's not your will, I yield it to your purposes. Here's what I planned for my life, Lord, but if that's not your will, I yield to the better life you've planned for me.”

When you yield to God, you don’t lose anything, because Jesus said, “Whoever loses their life for me will find it.” (Matthew 16:25) Your surrender actually opens the door to miracles. It opens the door to transformation. It opens the door to things you couldn't pull off.

I know your kids are driving you crazy, but when you put them in the Lord's hands, you experience a peace that surpasses understanding. When you put that job situation in the Lord's hands, it relieves
you from the stress that is killing you. It puts you in the position to experience the miracle of God's grace and his intervention in the midst of otherwise impossible situations.

So I ask you, *What is your fish sandwich?* What is it that big thing that you're still a little reticent to release into God’s hands? Are you willing to be like that little lad and take what you have, which is inadequate, which is pitiful, and release it into the hands of the One who is “able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think”? (Ephesians 3:20, KJV)

Surrender it to the Lord, and you'll discover that through the act of surrender, God will work miracles.

**Be a Presenter: Bring Them to Me**

If that little boy had held onto his lunch, he could never have participated in a miracle of tremendous significance. But when he presented it as a living sacrifice, he placed it in the hands of Someone who did something exceedingly greater than he could ever imagine.

God is calling you to present your life to him, to present your struggles to him, to present your challenges to him, to present your dreams to him, to present whatever is on your heart to him, because if it stays in your hands, it will never have significance. It will never fulfill God's purpose.

Look at your life. There are things that you've been struggling with and fooling with for a long time, because they are still in your hands. You may be struggling with your marriage, your kids, your finances, your job, your money, your hopes and desires. I'm here to tell you that miracles can't take place as long as you have possession and ownership. But when you dare release these things into the hands of God, miracles can happen.

We must become presenters. We must become those who surrender that which we have into the hands of the Lord. And as he did with his disciples, God will use this experience as a case study, as an illustration, as a lesson for you. As he did with his disciples, he may be testing you, for he already has in mind the miracle he wants to perform in your life. But he can’t perform a miracle if you have not presented it to him.

I ask you again, *What are the fish sandwiches in your life?* God does not want them so he can leave you with nothing. He wants them so he can work a miracle that will not only bless others but will bless you as well. The fact is that when you surrender to the Lord, you open yourself up to everything that God wants to do for you.

And what does God want to do for you? He has come to give us life abundant and that to the full. (John 10:10) He wants to make your life better, not worse. He wants to make your life richer, not poorer. He wants to make your life more fulfilled, not more empty and frustrating. We must be willing to present to the Lord that which in our hands can never produce a miracle.

*What are your fish sandwiches?*

Whatever those things are – your parenting, your marriage, your career, your finances – whatever you have great desire for in your heart, but with very meager resources and limited ability – present them to God.

Jesus says in Matthew 14:18: “Bring them here to me.”

*Bring the fish and the bread to me.*

This word is for you and for me. Cast your cares on the Lord. Give it over to God. Have a time of surrender. In the old church where I grew up, they’d put us up on the altar and tell us, “Don't get up until you've said ‘yes’ to God.”

You’ve been struggling to hold onto your fish sandwiches. Now it’s time to fight to let go. Don't get up until you've wrestled and God has won. In that old church, the saints would tell you to pray through. When you were crying and struggling to give it over to God, they’d say, “That’s good.
Surrender it to him.” Sometimes it pains us to give these things up. But whatever it takes, you must surrender. “Not my will, but thine be done,” said our Lord. That’s what you got to do.

“Bring them here to me,” Jesus said.

Now look what happened when they brought him the fish and the loaves: “He directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. (Matthew 14:19) The King James Version says, “He blessed them and then he broke them.”

When you give it to the Lord, God is going to do two things: He's going to bless what you give him. But then in order to work a miracle, he will require a breaking. Something that is not broken will not yet be prepared to participate in the miracle.

This is an important point to consider, especially since we are the “bless me” generation. We want to be blessed. Now, there’s nothing wrong with wanting to be blessed. That's cool. God wants to bless us, so there's nothing wrong with your desire to be blessed. But that desire comes natural to us. We don't need any lessons in how to desire blessing. We want to take God for everything he's got.

Thankfully, the Bible is clear that the Lord has blessed us in heavenly places with all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 1:3)

God is very anxious to bless his people, but you got to understand that God doesn't just want to bless you. God says, “I want to break you, so that I can work a miracle in and through you.”

Naturally, this “break me” stuff doesn’t go over well with the “bless me” generation. We say, “Yes, Lord, I want to be blessed. I'm truly blessed.” When someone asks you how you are doing, you say, “I’m blessed.” Or even better, “I am blessed and highly favored.” Good. That’s cool. But don’t stop there. If you want to be part of a miracle, if you want to see God do miraculous things in your life, you must also be willing to be broken.

We like the blessing part, but we're not so crazy about the breaking part.

**Shake and Break**

*Present yourself as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, which is your spiritual act of worship.*

Present yourself to God, then watch what he will do.

*He's going to bless it. Then He's going to break it.*

The breaking in our lives simply means that *God is going to shake out of us everything that is not in accord with his purpose.* The breaking is God saying, “Yes, I want to bless your career, but I don't want to bless your career for your sake. I want to bless your career for my sake, so I have to break you from everything that you aspire to do that is not part of my plan.”

Contrary to what some folks believe, God does not exist to co-sign our plans. We have some believers – not you, but some believers I've met – who are living life as though God's job is to co-sign their plans. They think that God's job is to say “yes” to everything they want. The reality is that our job is to say “yes” to everything he wants.

Saying “yes” to God requires a breaking. A breaking of my will. Let’s not fool ourselves into believing we are better than Jesus. He had to go to the Garden of Gethsemane and say to the Father, “If it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.” (Matthew 26:39) Jesus was talking about the impending torture that he was about to experience, and the utter abandonment by his disciples. He was talking about ultimately going to the cross and dying an excruciatingly painful and humiliating death. So he said, “Father, if there's any way for me to avoid this and be in your will, please let this cup pass from me.” But he didn't stop praying there. He said, “But nevertheless, not my will, but thine be done.”
There's a generation of believers that I'm being called to preach to who are good at knowing what their will is. It's about time we became better acquainted with words like “Nevertheless, not my will but yours.” We need to say, “God, if this isn't what you have for me, I surrender to you. I'm letting you break my will so that yours can be done.”

**Blessed and Broken Dating**

I'm believing God for a generation of people who will get better at surrender than they are at snatching blessings. God wants to raise up a generation that's better at saying “yes” to God then trying to get God to say “yes” to them.

He wants more singles who will get on the altar until they say, “God, if this man or woman is not for me, I don't care how fine they are.” Some of you understand that struggle. Maybe you pray, “God, he looks just like what I've been wanting. Look at his shoulders, Jesus. Look at his arms. He’s got muscles. He's ripped, Lord. He’s just what I've been picturing. I know he's not saved, or maybe he's barely saved.” I’ve heard that one a lot. This prospective spouse is not going to church, not in a Bible study, not developing a prayer life, not reading the Bible, and not getting in with other Christians for fellowship. He claims to have been born again, but you don't see any signs of discipleship.

As a pastor, I’ve had more people than I can count just drag something in here and pester them and bother them, trying to get them just barely saved so they can marry them. That’s no good. Let's wait until he or she gets all the way in Christ. God doesn’t need some sideline running person. He wants somebody right down the center of the field!

I'm believing God for a generation of people who will get on the altar until God breaks them, until they say, “Yes, Lord I really want to get married, but I refuse to dishonor your work in my life by joining with somebody who is not yielded to your perfect will.”

The author Bunny Wilson has said for years that single women should ask God for a husband who doesn't want to break God's heart.1 You found something good if you have a man who cares about what God thinks. If you’re looking at a man who will dishonor God at the drop of a hat, then you need to be broken. You can't drag into your life what God has not ordained and expect it to be blessed. You can’t take what is not his will, and turn it into his will. If you expect to see a miracle of God that way, it won't happen. Sister girl, I can introduce you to more folk than you want to meet who did what you're thinking about doing, trying to turn something that's not God's will into God's will, and they cursed the day they met him.

The same admonition applies to guys. I've seen men act like they can live any way they like and still experience God's blessing in their lives. Well, it’s not going to happen. Single men who come in and treat the church like it's your little harem, you mess over people’s lives and mess over their emotions, and then you think you're going to be blessed of God. The devil is a liar. You can only experience God's best when you surrender to his will. Don't go around “practicing.” You don't need to practice. You don't need friends with benefits. Don't go around trying people out. Don't put them on lay away, try them out for 90 days, and then discard them. That’s not God's will. You've got to surrender and say, “Lord, I'm going to date your way. I'm going to live a righteous life before you. I want not only to be blessed, but to be broken.”

Don’t seek only to be blessed with marriage. Seek to be broken first. Say, “Not my will, but thine be done.” Don’t say, “Bless me, Lord,” and stop there. Dare to say, “Lord, if there is anything in me contrary to your will, break me until I say an eternal ‘yes’ to you.”

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1 NOTE: I cannot find a reference for this online. PLEASE UPDATE THIS INFO. I'M GUESSING IT MIGHT BE THIS BOOK: P.B. Wilson, *Your Knight in Shining Armor* (Eugene, OR, Harvest House, 1995).
You can't just be blessed. Like a piece of chicken, you got to be boiled, broiled, fried, stewed, roasted, baked, burned, barbequed, blackened, sautéed and smoked. I know you never prayed for that to happen to you, but if you want to experience the miracle of God, you have to be more than blessed.

**Our Plans vs. God's Plans**

In the Bible, Abram and Sarai (who were later called Abraham and Sarah) received a promise.

*The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you ... and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” – Genesis 12:1-3*

Unfortunately, when it came time to believe God for the promise, and when they didn’t have any children, they decided to take things into their own hands. They were already senior citizens. He was in his 80s, she was in her 70s, and having children was obviously going to have to be a God-thing. So they got together and called a meeting. What they should have done instead of talking is praying.

Abram said, “You know, Baby, God said that He's going to bless my seed. I haven't had any children yet, so we got to have a child. What do you think about that?”

Sarai said, “Well, I don't know why you're looking at me. I'm not having any children! Are you crazy, man? I'm in my 70s. If you were going to give me a child, you should have given me one decades ago. It wasn't my fault. You were the one that didn't produce anything. I've been here the whole time.”

This, of course, is my version of the story. The next thing that happened, Sarai came up with a plan.

She said, “Listen to me. Since God gave you the promise, he means for you to be a father. But since I'm in my 70s, I can't give you a child. I want to cooperate with you and God, so this is what I'll do: I'll give you Hagar, my maid servant. She's a young Egyptian sister. I'll give her to you as a wife. Have a child with Hagar.”

Now I submit that Sarai had good intentions. She desired to be blessed like all of us want to be blessed. But she wasn't broken. She didn't realize that if God didn't mention Hagar, then Hagar wasn't part of his plan. God knows how to talk plain and get his message across. If that had been his plan, he would have added: “And you are to marry Hagar, that my will may be fulfilled.” But he didn’t say that, because it wasn’t his will.

Their brains got in the way of God's business, and they came up with this plan that seemed to work. Abram got together with Hagar, and that young sister inspired that old man. That old man had a temporary anointing, and they came up with a child. Hagar popped up pregnant, and they thought they'd helped God along.

God’s miracle can never be accomplished when we have not been broken to receive his will. Instead of producing a child of promise, they produced a son of the flesh. Ishmael was a child of the flesh, he was not the son that God promised Abram.

So they grew older as the years passed. That’s what happens when you fool around and try to get God to bless your mess. It's going to cause years of futility in your life.

Several years later, God speaks up again and says, “Now if you all are ready, I'm about to give you the make-up exam. Because that boy right there, Ishmael, is not the son I promised, and I cannot fulfill my plan through him.”

Now Abram was still thinking about cheating on this exam. He basically said, “Lord, the boy is here right now. Why don't you just transfer the blessing to him?” Abram didn’t realize that God can't
transfer his blessing onto your mess without brokenness and surrender. You've got to be broken so that he can work a miracle.

So the Lord said, “If you all are ready now, I want you and your wife – the only wife I gave you – to believe me and receive the blessing.” So Abram and Sarai had to get in their private chambers and say, “Okay, Lord. This is on you now. We’re counting on a miracle.” They had to believe God.

Naturally, God came through with the miracle. They had Isaac, the son of the promise, and they began to experience God’s best.

God Bless the Mess

Back in Genesis 16, Hagar and Sarai had some little run-ins when Hagar was raising Ishmael and Sarai had no children. That’s when Hagar started acting a little uppity. Now she’s the maid-servant, and this is her boss she's fooling with. So she started that little catty stuff that can happen between women.

Years later, in Genesis 21, we see that Abraham and Sarah (which were the new names God gave to Abram and Sarai) have finally gotten it right. Isaac, the son of promise, is here. But Abraham has a bigger issue growing between his two wives and two children. Two wives for Abraham was never God’s will, so all God did was let those two sisters have their run-ins.

The Bible says that Abraham and Sarah were having a celebration because Isaac was being weaned. That’s when Sarah looks over and sees Ishmael mocking her son Isaac, and she’s had it. She goes to Abraham and she says, “Alright, I put up with this mess for years.”

Of course, Sarah is acting like she had nothing to do with the original decision at this point. “I put up with Hagar and that boy for years. I'm sick of all of you all now. It is time for that woman to go. She's not welcome in my household anymore.”

Then Abraham said, “But baby, I understand you all have your little conflicts and all, and I understand why you want her to go. I'm sorry, but she is the mother of my child.”

Sarah crossed her arms and said, “I want both of them gone.”

Now in that culture, she wasn’t being unreasonable. It was her household. These people were her servants, and in those days she could do with them as she pleased.

So Abraham is stuck in the middle. He's got two wives and two children. God's will is for him to have one wife and one child. His heart is attached to Ishmael, his firstborn son, and I'm sure his heart is attached to Hagar. So he goes to God and says, “Lord what in the world do I do?”

And God says, “Harken to the voice of your wife.” God didn’t say that just because Sarah was culturally right in this issue. God was saying that his will could not be accomplished and his miracle could not be fulfilled as long as Abraham had division.

God basically said, “You have double vision. You got two agendas, and two children. You got to get your life in line with my will. You got to get rid of them so I can get you to myself and move on with the promise.”

Abraham had to make the gut wrenching decision to put out Hagar and Ishmael. But I love what God did, because Abraham had surrendered to God. The Lord said to Abraham, “I know how deeply Hagar and Ishmael are in your heart, so I'm going to give you a promise. If you obey me and put them out, I'm going to take care of them. I won't let them die out in the wilderness. In fact, I'm going to make you a promise that not only will they survive, but I will raise up Ishmael and make a great nation out of him.”

I love how God can bless your mess once you surrender it into his hands. If you have a mess you're trying to figure out what to do with, I have a word for you. I'm here to tell you that God is saying, “Give it to me. Do what I'm telling you to do, and watch how I bring it to pass.”

So Abraham surrendered and finally got rid of them. Maybe he thought he was sitting pretty now, but it wasn’t over yet.
There’s always a deeper dimension of saying “yes” to God. Whenever you surrender to him, you learn that the will of God is fluid. It is not static, but very transitional, and God will move you into a new season where you have to find a new altar and say “yes” to him all over again.

Look what God said in the very next chapter of Genesis, after Ishmael and Hagar are gone:

_Sometime later, God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love – Isaac – and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”_ – Genesis 22:1-2

Can you imagine getting that kind of word? Talk about being broken!

I can hear Abraham saying, “You made me give up my two children and two wives. Now I'm down to one child and one wife, and you're telling me to surrender the one child I have?!”

But he didn't understand that the miracle God wanted to work through Isaac and Jacob – the miracle of bringing Jesus Christ into the world through their offspring – could never happen until his surrender was full and his brokenness complete. God had to insure that he was fully broken, so he told Abraham to offer his son Isaac up on the mountain as a sacrifice.

The Bible is clear that Abraham got up early in the morning and took that boy out and didn't tell Sarah a thing. Sometimes if you're going to be broken and surrender to the will of God, you better know who to talk to and who not to talk to. Imagine if he would have tried to run that one past Sarah.

She'd say, “Hey baby, where are you going?”

He'd say, “Oh yeah, Isaac and I are going up on the mountain. I've got to kill him.”

Needless to say, that conversation probably wouldn't have gone over so well. Instead, my man snuck out early in the morning and let Sarah sleep on. He didn’t need no breakfast, no grits or nothing, “I'm good. I'm good,” he’d say. So he simply went off in obedience to do the will of God.

After he’d gotten everything ready up on the mountain, the Bible says he lifted his knife with the intent to kill his child. He didn't know why in the world God would require such a thing. He didn't understand, but that’s just like God. Sometimes he causes you to surrender to his will when you have a lot of unanswered questions. But God refuses to wait until you get satisfied with all the answers. He says, “Just do what I told you to do.”

It was only when Abraham lifted his knife that the Lord spoke out of heaven and said, “No. No. Of course, I don't want you to kill him. Isaac the son of promise. What I want is for you to fully surrender him, so that the rest of his life I can do to and through him anything I want, without any objections from you.”

### Breaking Bread, Making Bread

I'm here to tell you that God wants to bless you.

But _you can't just be blessed; you have got to be broken._

Now if you will be broken, you will discover the same thing they discovered in Matthew 14. Once Jesus blessed the bread and the fish, when he began to break the bread and the fish, that’s when the miracle began to happen. This is the place where God begins to do what only God can do.

The miracle begins to happen when Jesus takes the first loaf and blesses it and breaks it. He takes the first little fish and blesses it and breaks it. He hands it to someone and they begin to feed. He takes
the second part and blesses it and breaks it and gives that to someone. Meanwhile, God supernaturally takes what was broken and multiplies it in Christ's hands.

Jesus blesses that and breaks it.

*And as Jesus was breaking bread, the Father was making bread.*

*And as Jesus was breaking fish, the Father was making fish.*

You might ask, “How does God do that?” Well, how did God step out into nothing at the beginning of time and say, “Let there be,” and there was? You can't figure out God. You can’t limit God. We serve One who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think.

How does God provide for you in tough economic times? How does he give you life and breath? All you have to do is say “Yes,” and you’ll see him do it. All you have to do is be broken and say “Yes, Lord. I'm going to do your will. Yes, I'm going to take these meager resources and I'm going to give my tithes and my offering. Yes, I'm going to trust that you will let me pay my bills.” You don’t need to figure it out, because it might not make sense. A whole lot of stuff in the will of God doesn't make sense to us. But all you have to do is say “yes.”

Why does God tell you to love your enemies? That doesn't make sense to our minds. But if you love your enemies, then God will take that love as an offering of surrender and he will begin to multiply his blessings into your life. Once you begin to do his will, God will free you from some things that are binding you.

You might have your own set of dreams and aspirations, but God has even better plans that He's waiting to give you, once you surrender everything into his hands. And once you surrender to God, you will see amazing things that you've never experienced before.

I used to tell God, “I want to be a regular Christian. I don't want to be a preacher. I want to be regular. I want to be able to come home from work. I want to get married and have kids who know Daddy’s coming home.”

I didn't think a pastor could do that, because I saw my dad always out ministering to people, and we never knew when he was coming home. I said, “I don't want to be like that. I want to love you, but I want to have another career.”

God said, “Thank you for sharing.”

You wouldn’t be receiving this message today if I hadn’t have been broken. God wouldn't be using this ministry to speak into your life today, had I held onto my will.

I said, “Lord, I'm willing to be broken, and although I don't understand how I can have the life I want and still do your will, I'm just going to trust you.” Once I surrendered to the Lord, he showed me that I didn’t have to have the same lifestyle that my dad had in order to do his will. In fact, the Lord called me to take care of my family before my ministry. He showed me that I didn’t have to worry about that.

When I first came to this church, I said, “I'm going to tell you all something that’s going to be true the rest of my pastoral ministry: You will be third place in my life.”

They said, “What is he talking about?”

I said, “My walk with God is going to be first. My family is going to be second. And you all will be third. You have a vested interest in making my wife happy, because if she's not happy, you all got a problem.”

And they cooperated. They said, “Pastor that's cool. That sounds good to us.” We worked it out, and I found out that I could be a pastor and still have a family life. God was able to answer the questions I couldn't answer, but I first had to say “yes” to him.

Maybe you are wrestling with God and trying to hold onto your will for your relationships, your marriage, your parenting, your career, your ministry, your life. This word comes straight from the Father.

He says, “Let me break you. And while I’m breaking, I’ll be making new miracles in your life.”
God wants your life to become part of a miracle. This is what happened when well over 10,000 men, women and children were fed to their complete satisfaction by two pitiful fish and five little barley loaves. God can do more than you can ask, think, or imagine, through the simple act of opening your hands. If he did it with one insignificant boy who saw God do significant things through his surrender, he can do it with you.

What is your fish sandwich?
What is God asking you to give him?
Whatever it is, I'm called to tell you to release it through surrender into the Lord's hands.
Get into your Garden of Gethsemane and say, “Lord, here's what I want, but what I want doesn't matter. Not my will, but yours be done.”

“Give me the grace, Lord, to make hard decisions. Give me the grace to walk away from the people who are not part of your plan for my life. Give me the grace to change my attitude, to change my actions. Give me the grace to stop acting out in the flesh and to instead start walking in the spirit. Give me the grace to humble myself when my pride wants to assert itself. Give me the grace to persevere and wait on you, to believe in you for the miracle that comes on the back side of being blessed and being broken. Lord Jesus, give me the grace to be broken.”

*If something in your hands ain't broke*, then I encourage you to *let God break it.*
Only then will you begin to see his amazing miracles in your life.

**Going Deeper:**
1) In what areas of life do you feel as if you need to be more humble, trusting, or broken?
2) What things, people, situations, or desires would you like to release into the hands of God so that he can work miracles?
3) Why is it often so difficult to let go of these things?
4) What (if anything) do you fear by letting go?
5) What miracles would you like God to work as you let go of these things and place them into his hands?

**Let’s Pray:**

Father God, I release ____________________________ into your hands. Forgive my lack of trust. I receive your peace. Thank you in advance for the miracles you will work as I surrender these things into your hands. Give me the assurance that I need not worry, that they are in good hands. I pray that the breaking and the miracles you work through my simple act of surrender will not only bless me, but bless many other people as well. Thank you, Father.