

**Sunday 13-February-22**

**Restoration to the Broken**

**Ezekiel 34:1-6**

**34** The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup> "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Woe to you shepherds of Israel who only take care of yourselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock? <sup>3</sup> You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock. <sup>4</sup> You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally. <sup>5</sup> So they were scattered because there was no shepherd, and when they were scattered, they became food for all the wild animals. <sup>6</sup> My sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. They were scattered over the whole earth, and no one searched or looked for them.

**Matthew 9:18-38**

**Jesus Raises a Dead Girl and Heals a Sick Woman**

<sup>18</sup> While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live." <sup>19</sup> Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples.

<sup>20</sup> Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. <sup>21</sup> She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed."

<sup>22</sup> Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed at that moment.

<sup>23</sup> When Jesus entered the synagogue leader's house and saw the noisy crowd and people playing pipes, <sup>24</sup> he said, "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him. <sup>25</sup> After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. <sup>26</sup> News of this spread through all that region.

### **Jesus Heals the Blind and the Mute**

<sup>27</sup> As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"

<sup>28</sup> When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?"

"Yes, Lord," they replied.

<sup>29</sup> Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith let it be done to you"; <sup>30</sup> and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this." <sup>31</sup> But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.

<sup>32</sup> While they were going out, a man who was demon-possessed and could not talk was brought to Jesus. <sup>33</sup> And when the demon was driven out, the man who had been mute spoke. The crowd was amazed and said, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel."

<sup>34</sup> But the Pharisees said, "It is by the prince of demons that he drives out demons."

## The Workers Are Few

<sup>35</sup> Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, **"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."**

### Sermon: Restoration to the Broken

Please have your **Bibles opened** up at **Matthew 9** – starting at **verse 18**.

Let me pray for God's guidance and understanding

Let's pray...

### Intro (Broken)

We can be **broken in many ways**, can't we?

- a. Broken by **relationship problems** – which can lead to **broken homes** and **broken families**
- b. Broken by **sickness** or **disability** or **ageing**
- c. Broken by **mental health** problems
- d. Broken by **trauma** from an event in our lives
- e. Broken by **grief** over the **loss of a loved one**; the **loss of freedom**; the **loss of independence** or the **loss of position** or **job**
- f. Broken because there just seems like there's **no hope** for the future anymore
- g. Broken by **unrepented sin in our lives** – which has us **feeling like God is not near**

That's a lot of brokenness, isn't it?

When we break a special bowl or vase, we may attempt to repair it and do our best to conceal the damage.

[PowerPoint 1-Kintsugi]



In **Kintsugi** – the **Japanese art of golden joinery** – they do something quite amazing with broken bowls and vases - the **breakage and repair become part of the history of the object**, rather than something to disguise. An **artist can make a bowl or a vase more precious through their patient work**, using lacquer glue dusted or mixed with powdered gold, silver, or platinum; to give it a beautiful finish.

Both - Prison Fellowship Australia and Chaplaincy Australia – use this Japanese art of Kintsugi – **to illustrate how God restores broken lives**

You see from the moment that the first two people on this Earth – Adam and Eve – rebelled against God - **humanity and creation “broke”**.... a murder in the first family, fractures between God, humankind, and creation – weeds and thorns, shame and pain – even death was introduced.

But **God didn’t just ‘throw’ humanity away nor did He hide the damage**. He began restoring – “reconciling all things to himself” – piece-by-piece – healing and repairing.

God doesn't just use ordinary glue to restore His precious pottery [His people], He uses Kingdom gold - costly, precious, stunning, valuable – He uses His own precious Son – Jesus – to fix what is broken!

In our Bible passage from Matthew 9 – we come across a heap of brokenness

- We see - a **broken home** – a home sent into turmoil - by sickness leading to death
- We see - a woman with a **broken body**
- We see - two men with **broken vision**
- And we see - a man weakened by a **broken spirit** and a **broken voice**

### A Broken Home (Matthew 9:18-19; 23-26)

- We pick up the story in v18 where a **synagogue leader** named **Jairus** [from Mark's Gospel] came and **knelt down before Jesus** saying his daughter had just died [other Gospels say – she is dying – Matthew perhaps describes what Jairus “thought” – Jairus thought his daughter was dead when in fact she was on the point of death]
- Picture the scene back at Jairus' house – the **house broken and in turmoil** – a sick and **dying child** – **people distressed** – and **broken with grief**

[PowerPoint 2-Jairus]



- So Jairus comes from the broken home – and **humbles himself at the feet of Jesus**
- **Jairus’ love for his daughter** compelled him to come to Jesus and he had **great faith** that **Jesus** could just **lay His hands** on the girl and **she would live**
- **Jesus showed compassion** and went with Jairus
- Before we get too carried away with Jairus’ faith
- We need to understand as a synagogue leader **Jairus wouldn’t necessarily be someone who was in favour of Jesus’ ministry** – many of the religious leaders of the day were **cynical and indifferent about Jesus** – but **Jairus was desperate** – his daughter was dead/dying – so he **perhaps came to Jesus when all else failed.**
- He perhaps had an **imperfect motive** – but still he had faith and **Jesus responded to that faith**
- We skip down to **verse 23** when Jesus arrives at Jairus’ home – the **scene is tragic** – there’s a noisy **crowd wailing in grief** and people playing pipes – they are **professional mourners**
- Notice **Jesus’ extraordinary words** – v24 –” the **girl is not dead but asleep**”
- The **crowd laughed at Jesus** because they knew the girl was clearly not asleep – she was dead
- But **they didn’t understand what Jesus meant**
- You see to Jesus – **death is temporary** – because **He has the power over death** – and **He is able to raise people to life** (as He did with **Lazarus** in John 11) – and as He **did Himself** – 3 days after His death
- For us as Christians - because Jesus has power over death – and because He sees death as just like sleeping – when we die – **it’s like being asleep** - when we wake up, we are in eternity – **and have eternal life** – that means as Christians we do not need to fear dying

### [PowerPoint 3-Girl Raised]



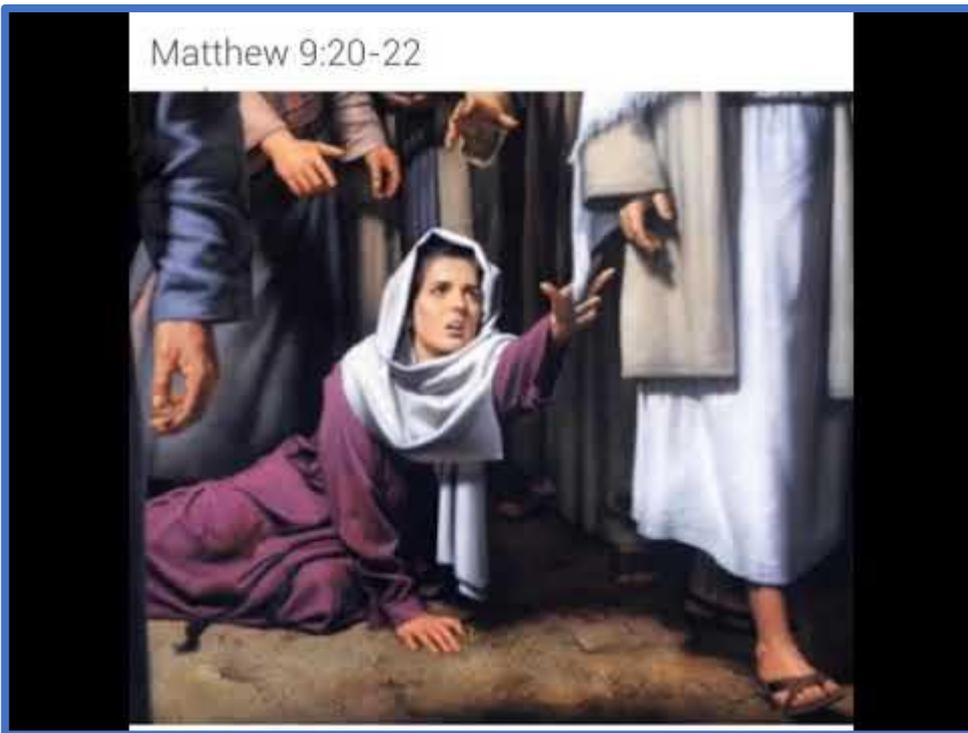
- After the crowd were put out – v25 – **a simple touch from Jesus and the girl gets up – she is alive!**
- Our lives only have to be touched by Jesus – for amazing things to happen
- Now we don't physically have Jesus with us today – but we can come to Him with any problem – in prayer – and take it to His feet – and leave it there
- He will either fix the problem or show us how to live with the problem – you see sometimes by living through the problem we learn things that can help others in the future
- Example – grief [[God of all comfort 2 Corinthians 1](#)]

### A Broken Body (Matthew 9:20-22)

- Now when Jesus was about to go with Jairus to his home...
- We're told in v20 that **Jesus was interrupted** by a **woman who had been bleeding for 12 years** – her body was basically broken – and for a long time – she'd almost given up all hope!

- From Mark's version of the story – we're told the **woman had spent all her money seeing many doctors** who had caused her great suffering and had not made her better – only worse!
- The **woman thought** if only I can touch the hem of Jesus' garment – **I will be healed**

[PowerPoint 4-Woman]



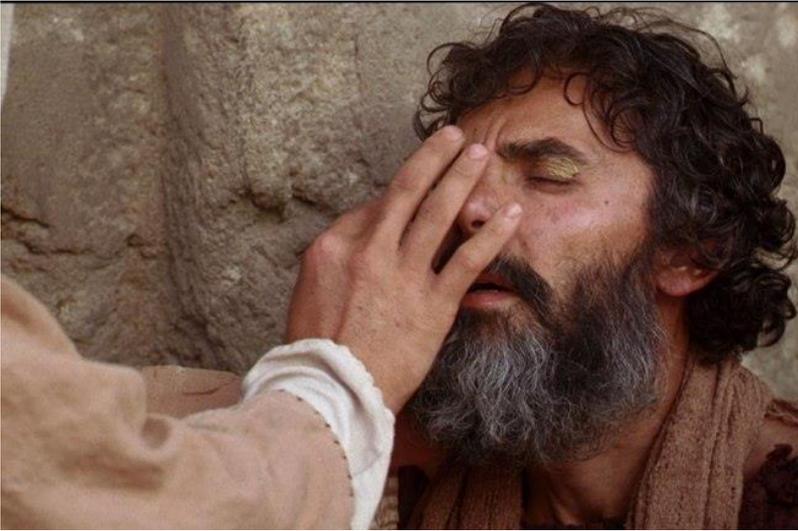
- Now we **need to understand** – that because she was bleeding – she was **considered ceremonially unclean** (Leviticus 15:25-30) and was **not allowed to touch anyone** – otherwise they would be unclean too
- The **woman** actually touched just the tassels **[Greek]** on the hem of the garment
- The **tassels on Jewish garments** reminded them **they were Jews** and **that they were to obey God's commands** (Num 15:37-41 and Deut 21:12) – today the tassels are on Jewish prayer shawls for the same reason
- The **woman's faith was a simple faith** – she believed a simple touch of one of those tassels – **would be enough for her**

- According to Mark and Luke's version of the story
- Even though Jesus was being jostled by a large crowd – **Jesus felt the woman touch the hem of his garment** – and He sensed her need to be healed – He recognized her faith - and power went out from Him – and **the woman was healed immediately**
- **Jesus says it's her faith that healed her** (v22)
- Again, some may **question** the **woman's approach** to Jesus
- She **perhaps touched** the **hem** of Jesus' garment **out of superstition**
- But just like Jairus' the woman turned up with whatever quality of faith she had – **and Jesus rewarded her**
- Surely that's a **lesson** for us – that **we need to come to Jesus in our faith** – even if our motive is a bit off like Jairus – even if we're at the point of feeling hopeless like the woman - **we need to turn to Jesus** – bringing even one ounce of faith – that's all we need!
- Notice – even though Jesus is in a crowd – **He felt the woman's touch** – **He sensed her faith**. You see - **No one is ever lost in the crowd** – when they come to Jesus!
- Notice too – Jesus could have just kept walking – He felt the power leave Him – He knew the woman was healed – **He didn't have to stop**
- **But Jesus never turned away anyone who turned up in faith** – looking for His help – and He won't turn away anyone today!
- **But many today don't come to Him** – **that's sad**
- **People mattered to Jesus** – not money – not stuff – **what about us?**

(pause)

[A Broken Vision \(Matthew 9:27-31\)](#)

[PowerPoint 5-Vision]



- Next, we come to **two blind men** in v27 – **they have broken vision** – yet they **followed Jesus**
- It wouldn't have been **easy** for the **blind men to follow Jesus** – they would have needed someone to guide them
- They know and believe that **Jesus is the Son of David** – this is a **title** used in the Old Testament to refer to the **Messiah** that God would send
- Notice they ask Jesus for mercy
- According to the mis-guided thinking of the time; disability and sickness, such as blindness were seen as a curse from God for sin. The **blind men asked for mercy** - no mention of how they had suffered - and no demand for healing – **just mercy.**
- This time Jesus' **healing** is **private** – He takes them **indoors**
- He asked them an **interesting question** – Do you believe that I am able to do this (healing)?
- Yes Lord – they reply
- And again – Jesus says it's their faith that has produced healing and restored **their sight**
- Note: faith does not guarantee physical healing but a lack of faith and no faith may cause people not to be healed.

- But - note: faith does, however, guarantee spiritual healing – i.e., our faith in Jesus guarantees forgiveness and eternal life.
- And again – some may question the blind men’s faith because they called Jesus – Son of David – a title that many thought meant Jesus would be a warrior King like King David from 1000 years earlier – and they thought Jesus would rise up with His army to defeat the Romans and kick them out of Israel – but Jesus was a different kind of King – King of Heaven and Earth – and a servant king
- But even if the blind men’s theology is a bit off – they had faith that Jesus could make them see again – and that’s all Jesus wants
- For us: It’s our faith that brings us into contact with Jesus
- It’s worth noting - blindness here should remind us that there is another blindness people can suffer from – that’s **spiritual blindness** – where people reject God and His Son, Jesus – and are blind to things of God
- People who are spiritually blind – need to have their eyes opened to God’s word and the teaching of Jesus!

### A Broken Spirit (Matthew 9:32-34)

- In the last broken story – vv32 to 34
- We have a **man who has a broken spirit** – He is **possessed by a demon** – who prevents the man from speaking – so he has a **broken voice as well!**

### [PowerPoint 6-Broken Spirit]



- In the Jewish understanding of demon possession, this man could not be helped. This was because most rabbis of that day thought that the essential first step in removing the demon was to make the demon say its name. The **name was** then thought of as a **handle by which the demon could then be removed**. So, a **demon that made a man mute** had cleverly prevented its name being revealed by the victim, and therefore prevented the demon from being removed!
- However - **Jesus is able to drive out the demon and restore the man's voice – because Jesus has the power of God!**
- Understandably the crowd were amazed and said **“nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel”**.
- But here we also have an amazingly sad and disturbing response from the Pharisees and religious leaders – look at v34
- They say *“it's by the prince of demons that Jesus drives out demons”*
- Their status, power and authority as religious leaders is **under threat from Jesus**, who is **able to deal with demons and perform such amazing miracles**. They were **jealous of Jesus' fame and growing popularity**. They were blind to the truth that Jesus is God's son – they were **blind guides**.
- By attributing Jesus' healing work as the power of the Devil; they were not only rejecting Jesus – they were saying He's from the devil.
- Once people say Jesus, the source of all that is true and good – **is actually from the source of all that is false and evil** – then people have gone too far (see Matt 12:31-32). As Don Carson puts it: *“by the Pharisees blaspheming against the Holy Spirit, the Pharisees were lining up on the opposing side and putting themselves outside the scope of forgiveness!”*

## How We Help the Broken (Matthew 9:35-38)

- There we have it
- **Some amazing examples of how Jesus deals with brokenness**

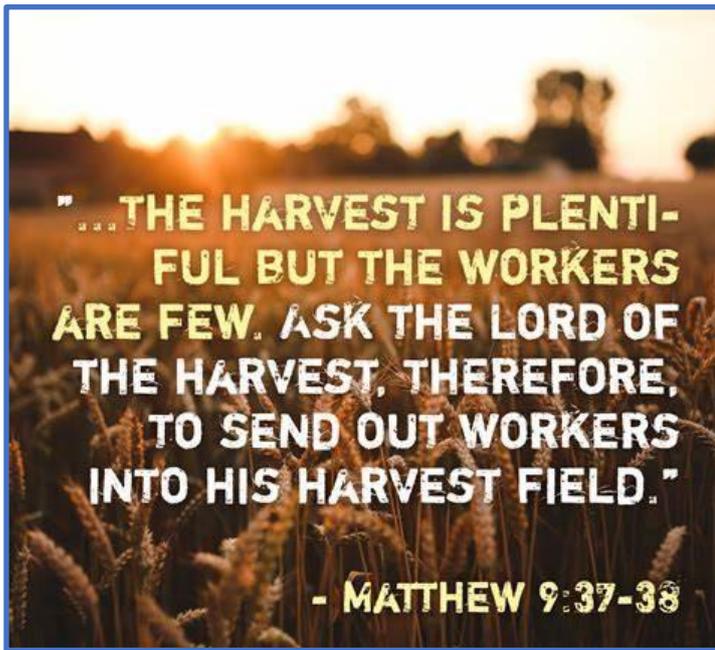
### [PowerPoint 7-v35-36]

- As we see in verse 35 – as Jesus goes about His ministry teaching about God and His Word and proclaiming the Good News of His Kingdom which brings forgiveness and eternal life – He is confronted with more brokenness – in a physical sense – over and over again - **where many people have every disease and sickness**
- And just because we don't have Jesus with us physically anymore – it **doesn't mean He is not at work** – and that we can't bring our physical brokenness to Him – **in prayer!**
- Personally – **I've been healed from cancer twice!**
- **Miracles do still happen today!**

(pause)

- But look at v36 – Jesus is confronted with another brokenness – which is more important - it's a spiritual brokenness. **Here Jesus has compassion on the people** – because He sees **the people are like lost sheep without a shepherd**
- This is not a new problem – in our OT reading from Ezekiel – that was the problem in Ezekiel's day – **the religious leaders** (like shepherds) were not looking after the people (their sheep) properly and the **people were like lost sheep** – lost from God

[PowerPoint 8-v37-38]



- Jesus' point is – in v37 – that **all the people who are lost from God** – are like a wheat field needing to be harvested – but there's a problem Jesus says in v37 – this **wheat harvest is plentiful** [there's plenty of people lost from God] - but the workers are few [in other words there's hardly anyone bringing the lost people back to Jesus]
- As we look out at our community in Toukley and the surrounding areas
- **How many people follow Jesus?** 10% - 20%? The point is there are a lot of people who are lost sheep – lost from God
- **God wants us to be His workers** – and our job is to go out into His harvest field – and **point those lost people towards Jesus – the Good Shepherd**
- To do that – we have to have compassion – like Jesus had
- Does it make us sad to know there are people lost from God – it should?
- What will we do about those in community who are lost from God?
  - Our Church has to show we love Jesus and love each other

- The community has to see our church – **care for the sick - support our widows and widowers – provide for our poor**
- Our Church needs to be **inviting others to join us. What if we all invited one person to come and hear about Jesus?**
- Our Church needs to **show love to every person who walks in the door – no one turned away – no one written off – everyone welcome**
- Our Church **must care for the broken** – those with **broken relationships** – those with **broken homes** and **broken families** – those **broken in grief** – those with **broken bodies** – those with **broken hope** and **a broken spirit!**
- Our Church needs to **grow in love for Jesus** by soaking up God’s Word – and applying it to our lives – one way to do this is by **joining one of our growth groups**
- Our Church needs to **make disciples and grow disciples** –
- What if we **volunteered to teach scripture in our schools?**
- Challenge: will **one of you join me in doing some street evangelism?**
- And of course, there’s **one thing we can all do – in v38 – we can all pray and ask “*Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field*”**
- And in our prayers - **we must have faith** – **faith that simply touches the tassel on the hem of Jesus’ garments** – that’s enough faith to bring people into contact with Jesus...

Let’s pray...

*Heavenly Father we acknowledge that all of us are broken in some way – some physically – some emotionally – some mentally – and some spiritually.*

*We acknowledge that our sinful nature meant our relationship with you was broken – and that we need to be reconciled with you. We thank you that in your grace and mercy*

*– you reconciled us back to you by sending your Son Jesus – to become sin for us – so that we could be right with you.*

*Help us to have faith – so that we can come to you in our brokenness – knowing you will restore us.*

*Help us to have compassion on all who are lost from you – help us to see their great need for Jesus – the Good Shepherd – and help us to be diligent in working for you – to show the love of Jesus to those who are broken. Help us reach out to those lost from you – so that people can be found again and restored – like those broken bowls and vases – as they come to believe in Jesus – our Lord and Saviour. In His Name, we pray. Amen.*

### **Benediction/Conclusion (Galatians 6:8-9)**

<sup>8</sup> Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. <sup>9</sup> Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.