

Broken Vessels – Quotes

Session One – ‘She Broke Open the Jar’

‘The greatest good you can give to another is not just share your riches, but reveal to them their own’. **Disraeli**

‘a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head.’ **(Mark 14.3)**

¹³ *Elijah said to [the widow of Zarepeth], “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.’”* **(1 Kings 17.13-14)**

Breaking Point – Ann Lewin

‘You must be broken’

St Augustine said.

But how? Not down,

Ground into helplessness,

Nor up, fragmented into

uselessness, but

Open, like seeds

Releasing life.

‘there’s a crack in everything, that’s how the light gets in’ **(Leonard Cohen)**

Watch, O Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight, and give Your angels and saints charge over those who sleep.

Tend Your sick ones, O Lord Christ.

Rest Your weary ones.

Bless Your dying ones.

Soothe Your suffering ones.

Pity Your afflicted ones.

Shield Your joyous ones, and all for Your love’s sake. Amen.

Prayer of Augustine

Session Two – Broken For You

‘if a central aim of the Christian life is to help people encounter and enter into the dark night of faith, then Christian worship needs to hold together lament and praise, grief and glory’.

Kenneth Leech, We Preach Christ Crucified, 2006

Lamentations

Lamentations = 5 chapters, 5 poems (acrostic)

Grief, Complaint, Anger, Fidelity, God

Grief.

“This is why I weep
and my eyes overflow with tears.
No one is near to comfort me” **(Lam 1.16)**

Complaint

“The Lord is like an enemy;
he has swallowed up Israel” **(Lam 2.5)**

Anger

“Pursue them in anger and destroy them
from under the heavens of the Lord.” **(Lam 3.66)**

Fidelity

“How the gold has lost its lustre” **(Lam 4.1)**

God

“You, Lord, reign forever;
your throne endures from generation to generation.” **(Lam 5.19)**

¹⁰ *Rizpah daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it out for herself on a rock. From the beginning of the harvest till the rain poured down from the heavens on the bodies, she did not let the birds touch them by day or the wild animals by night. (2 Samuel 21.10)*

‘meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene’ (John 19. 25)

*Many women were standing at a distance from the cross, watching’
(Matthew 27. 55)*

‘It is at the point of our most profound brokenness, at the shaking of the foundations of our being, that Christ’s cross becomes a symbol of hope and the reversal of the forces of death’

Kenneth Leech, We Preach Christ Crucified, 2006

"Lament is not despair. Incomprehension is not atheism. From the cross, redemption flows, even from the wrists and feet and side of Christ lifted high. Love will be outpoured, sacrificially."

Graham Ward (sermon at Christ Church Cathedral, February 12th 2023)

*'love that gives, gives ever more
Gives with zeal, with eager hands
Spares not, keeps not, all outpours
Ventures all, its all expands'.*

From Loves Endeavour, Loves Expense, WH Vanstone, 2007

Session Three – ‘Gather up the Fragments’

‘[Jesus said] Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.’¹³ So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.’ (John 6.12a-13)

The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. (Isaiah 58: 11-12)

¹⁰ Adjoining this, Jedaiah son of Harumaph made repairs opposite his house, and Hattush son of Hashabneiah made repairs next to him. ¹¹ Malkijah son of Harim and Hasshub son of Pahath-Moab repaired another section and the Tower of the Ovens. ¹² Shallum son of Hallohesh, ruler of a half-district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section with the help of his daughters. (Nehemiah 3.10-12)

‘In entering into the stories of resurrection from the Gospels, we crossed that shining line and stepped into the circle of the divine. We found ourselves in a strange and wonderful world, where large stones at the door of tombs are swept away like dead leaves; where death does not hold sway any more, its tight, dark places empty but for the rustling sound of angels’ wings; where wonder of wonders, we meet a wounded God marked with scars of crucifixion; where those who have denied and deserted take their place once more in the circle and sit and eat; where, against all reasonable expectation, there is good news to be told and hopes are renewed and fulfilled, and new ones, undreamed of, are born; where a task is given, that of collaborating with the wounded God to establish his topsy-turvy kingdom on this, his bright earth’.

The Easter Stories by Trevor Dennis, 2008

Brothers and sisters, if we don’t believe all brokenness—war, poverty, torture, hunger—can somehow be redeemed, who of us would not be angry, cynical, hopeless? Easter is not just the final chapter of Jesus’ life, but the final chapter of history. Death does not have the last word.

Richard Rohr - <https://cac.org/daily-meditations/the-death-of-death-2019-04-21/>

“Jesus calls his disciples” wrote Sara Miles “giving us authority to heal and sending us out. He doesn’t show us how to reliably cure a molar pregnancy. He doesn’t show us how to make a blind man see, dry every tear, or even drive out all kinds of demons. But he shows us how to enter into a way of life in which the broken and sick pieces are held in love, and given meaning. In which strangers literally touch each other, and in doing so make a community spacious enough for everyone”

***Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans, 2018**

Clip from The Repair Shop

<https://youtu.be/HMO242U0d4Q>

Notes from a conversation with Rob Bell and Richard Rohr (podcast), taken by Clare Hayns

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=82hzhb3qzT0&ab_channel=TheRobCast

Resurrection says that what we do with our lives matters
in this body
the one that we inhabit right now
every act of compassion matters
every work of art that celebrates the good and the true matters
every fair and honest act of business and trade
every kind word
they all belong

nothing will be forgotten
nothing will be wasted
it all has its place

Each fragment lovingly redeemed and restored
We're invited to trust resurrection
that every glimmer of good
every hint of hope
every impulse that elevates the soul
is a sign, a taste, a glimpse
of how things actually are
and how things will ultimately be

resurrection affirms this life and the next
as a seamless reality
embraced
graced
and saved by God

Peter Mayer – Japanese Bowl

<https://youtu.be/qOAzobTIGr8>

*I'm like one of those Japanese bowls
That were made long ago
I have some cracks in me
They have been filled with gold
That's what they used back then
When they had a bowl to mend
It did not hide the cracks
It made them shine instead
So now every old scar shows
From every time I broke
And anyone's eyes can see
I'm not what I used to be
But in a collector's mind
All of these jagged lines
Make me more beautiful
And worth a much higher price
I'm like one of those Japanese bowls
I was made long ago
I have some cracks, you can see
See how they shine of gold*