

# ***Broken: Broken Relationships***

## *Various Texts*

### ***Our Design***

- When God created humanity, He created us for relationship
  - With Him (Lev. 26:12)
  - With others (Gen. 2:18)

### ***Sin's Effect***

- When Adam & Eve rebelled, it damaged their relationship with God (Gen 3:23) and each other (Gen. 3:16b).
- And within a generation, human relationships were so broken that it led to murder (Gen. 4:8)

### ***Broken Relationships***

- Likewise, that sinfulness in us leads to relationships that are marred
- We are hurt and broken people
  - And hurt people hurt people
- Most of the hurt that we do to others is unintentional
  - We act out of what we know
- Though there are times that we act in ways to intentional harm others
- Both are outpourings of selfishness in us (Jas 4:1-2)

### ***The Way to Heal Broken Relationships***

- First, we need a restored relationship with God
  - This is only available through Jesus (John 14:6)
- He offers us forgiveness, mercy, & grace
  - Forgiveness: To cancel a debt owed
  - Mercy: To not punish someone as their bad deeds deserve
  - Grace: To act good to those who do not deserve it
  - This not a free transaction, because it costed Jesus His life!
- Once we have a restored relationship with God, we need to model that restoration to those around us
  - Granting forgiveness (Eph 4:32; Col 3:13)
  - Showing mercy (Luke 6:36)
  - Exercising grace (Col. 4:6; 1 Pet. 2:19)
- Hurt people hurt people
- But healed people want others to be healed
  - Those who truly know grace show grace
  - We forgive because we understand of how much we have been forgiven (Luke 7:47)

### ***Why Order is Important***

- It is imperative that we have a restored relationship with God *before* we can really restore relationships with others
  - Because I can't love you like Jesus if I don't deeply & intimately know Jesus' love!
  - It is why the Great Commandment always is stated in the same order (see Matt. 22:36-40)

### ***So What?***

- Do you have a healed relationship with God through Jesus?
- Are you working to heal relationships with those around you?
  - Even if you are the one who has been hurt and wronged?

**Meditation Verse:** *Colossians 3:13*