

THE BIG IDEA: Our response to brokenness unlocks our potential for greatness.

The Take-Off

As we make the final turn towards the end of the 10 Series, we're going to spend some time this morning talking about potential.

[Show Demotivator]

Now, this image perfectly captures the world's view of potential: not everyone will actually realize theirs.

But Jesus sees potential differently, and in John 14:12 makes a statement that - if we're honest - can seem staggering.

He says that we are going to do greater things in this world than he did.

Let that sink in. You have incredible potential for the kingdom of God.

The question, of course, is how do we unlock it, and to find the answer, we're going to need to talk about something that will seem to be totally unrelated to the feel-good promise of potential we just read about.

We need to take some time and understand brokenness.

Let me teach you 2 truths about brokenness and then we'll see how it all relates to you unlocking the potential that Jesus sees in you.

The first truth is...

1. Everyone knows the pain of brokenness

This is one life principle that we probably all wish wasn't true, but it is.

Living proves it.

In fact, Jesus knew this principle, too, and told his disciples about it in John 16:33: "In this world you will have trouble."

Christians like to take that statement and make it exclusive to us when we get persecuted, but I think Jesus knew it was bigger than that. It was a statement that is common to everyone.

He knew it wouldn't be long before they would experience the pain of his death, and that is a part of living.

Love Jesus or don't love him, someone you love is going to die and you will feel that pain.

Everyone knows the pain of brokenness.

Now, we could spend a lot of time dissecting your pain and whether or not it was self-inflicted, but our purpose right now is simply to point on the commonality of brokenness.

Granted, some of us are broken because we do things that hurt and some are broken because others do things to us that hurt, but at the end of the day, all of us end up hurt.

I learned both of these lessons on the same skiing trip.

Self-inflicted: no poles

Other-inflicted: accident when skier fell in front of me

End result of both? Pain, embarrassment, brokenness.

Too often, this is where people stay.

They never move past the pain of brokenness and that's why...

2. Only some know the hope of brokenness

Brokenness hurts. Brokenness can create doubt. It can alienate us and make us feel cut off from "the normal people."

These are things that brokenness can do to anyone - no matter what they may or may not think of Jesus

But when we allow Jesus to come into the equation, everything changes, and a quick look at the end of John 16:33 shows it: not only does Jesus know we'll have trouble in this world, but he says we can have courage because he has overcome this world.

That's huge! If we're willing to invite Jesus into the broken areas of our lives, we suddenly start to find hope in our brokenness.

But brokenness does some other pretty powerful things, too.

Just take a quick look at how God responds to our brokenness:

- He receives the broken (Psalm 51:17)
- He draws near to the broken (Psalm 34:18)
- He touches the broken (Matthew 8:2)
- He loves the broken (John 11:35)
- He heals the broken (Psalm 147:3)

Remember this: when it comes to our brokenness, God isn't in as big of a hurry as we are.

He is more concerned with holding you than healing you.

When my children get hurt, I don't diagnose them before I daddy them.

You know what? If we simply stopped there, we would have already unlocked a ton of hope in brokenness, but there's even more.

Remember our keyword for this morning? Potential.

According to John 14:12, you and I have the potential to do great things for Jesus and his kingdom.

In fact, we have the potential to do even greater things.

Today's Big Idea says it all: **Our response to brokenness unlocks our potential for greatness.**

See, we all love the good stuff, don't we? The good seasons when everything is all bubblegum and butterflies!

It's a lot like this 5 pound Hershey bar.

I wouldn't have a hard time finding someone to volunteer to take this home with them, would I?

We can all relate to these times, can't we? We feel good, loved and blessed by God.

But if we've learned one thing in life it is that these moments don't last. At some point we will be broken because, as we've already pointed out, EVERYONE KNOWS THE HURT OF BROKENNESS.

[Throw it down]

But here is the dilemma of brokenness.

The times when the best we had lies smashed and in pieces and the enemy whispers in our ears that our best days are over.

But Jesus knew something that you need to know, too.

John 12:24 - brokenness is actually the key to greater things

If you're reading the 10/10/10 Reading plan during the 10 Series, then you've already seen this truth when Jesus fed the 5,000 in Mark 6.

When the 5 loaves of bread were whole, there wasn't enough (v. 38). But when they were broken (v. 41), there was more than enough (v. 43)!

The broken pieces of your life are not only precious to Jesus, but they are still useful by him in this world.

Brokenness isn't the end. In fact, it may be the very step that multiplies you for a hungry and hurting world.

Anybody still want some of this broken chocolate?

Of course you do!

The Landing

It's not enough to be broken - everyone will be broken at some point and many will not be better as a result.

The key is our response to the brokenness.

Our response to brokenness unlocks our potential for greatness.

Brokenness shows us three important things:

- a. What's in us
- b. Who is with us
- c. What comes from us to the world

Until the answer to each one of those is Jesus, you and I will never unlock our full potential for greater things in his kingdom

Bring your broken pieces to Jesus and let him fill you, let him be near you, and let him move through you to the world and you will maximize your POTENTIAL in this life

We know from Matthew 9:12 that Jesus came to the broken.

The only question this morning is, Will the broken come to him?