



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	This is Jesus Who Heals the Broken Hearted	SPEAKER	Mr Gary Koh
THEME	This is Jesus	DATE	19 & 20 March 2022

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Mr Koh opened with Isa 61:1-2 "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken hearted." He asked the congregation to reflect if they have ever been heartbroken in their lives. It could be due to various situations such as loss of familiarity, finances or broken relationships. Many times, we may ask God why did such situations happen or be like Martha who said: "If Only..." (John 11:21-22, 32). Sometimes we may have been heartbroken due to mistakes or foolish decisions that we have made. Nonetheless, we can take heart because Jesus came to heal the broken hearted.

FOUR HANDLES WHEN JOURNEYING THROUGH BROKENNESS (JOHN 11: 1 - 45)

All of us would have been broken hearted at some point in time. Our response could be to repress or suppress it. However, if we don't let it out healthily, we'll end up acting out unhealthily. The most appropriate and biblical response is to seek the Lord and navigate through our brokenness with Him. There are 4 handles for us as we journey through brokenness:

1. His Love

We must always remember and experience Jesus' unconditional love for each of us, which will never fail us. Humans may love with conditions but Jesus doesn't. He knows how we feel and what we are going through. John 11:35 records that Jesus wept as He comes to the tomb where Lazarus was and then the Jews said, "Behold how He loved him!" Our Lord Jesus feels for us. Mr Koh sang the famous Sunday school song, "Jesus Loves Me", which is an encouragement to all that Jesus loves us unconditionally.

2. His Time

John 11: 1-8 details about Mary conveying the message that her brother Lazarus (whom Jesus loved) was sick and Jesus responds with a delay as He stayed two more days in the place where He was. Following this, Jesus courageously decides to go to Judea and minister to Lazarus and his family, even though it was dangerous to go there. Jesus' disciples were shocked that He would return to the region of Judea where He was a wanted man as the Jews there wanted to stone Him.

In John 11: 23-38, we see Martha stating her disappointment in Jesus' late arrival. When Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." After four days there was absolutely no hope of

resuscitation, based on human logic. We know that Jesus subsequently raised Lazarus from the dead, despite what seemed impossible.

All of us would have experienced disappointments or we have been praying for so long but we don't see the answers to our prayers. Be hopeful! God's timing is perfect. He is punctual to the moment: He is never before His time and certainly, never behind it. Trust in God's timing even in persecutions, when we can't understand it and even though it doesn't make sense. Jesus does not follow our timelines. While it appears that Jesus first refused to grant Mary's request, He fulfilled it later on as He does things according to the timing and will of God. His delays are not denials.

3. His Way

Jesus' higher way was to raise Lazarus from the dead but Mary's plan was to prevent him from dying. When Jesus commanded the stone to be removed, Mary said by this time there would be a stench, for he has been dead four days. However, Jesus asked for the stone to be removed and those around helped to move the stone away. It is evident that God's ways are beyond human understanding. Isaiah 55 says: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. In the journey of brokenness, humble ourselves and look to God and trust in His ways.

4. His Glory

We exist for His glory. When we obey and trust in God's ways, we will see the glory of God. God's glory was on display for Mary, Martha, disciples and those around to see as He raised Lazarus from the dead. Through His Timing and His Ways, Jesus caused many people to believe that He is Jesus Christ. This brought glory to God (John 11: 4, 40). Let's fix our eyes on God's goal. 2 Cor 4:16-18 says: "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we are encouraged that Jesus loves us unconditionally. Trust wholeheartedly in His Time, His Ways and His Glory. He knows all that we are going through. Don't allow our hearts to be dissipated. Surrender our burdens and cast our cares unto Him. Humble ourselves before the Lord and allow Him to shape, mould and change us into Christ-likeness. He will be our guide. Jesus has a greater purpose which we are not privy to. As we shift our focus to trust in Him, we can be assured that we will see the goodness and glory of God. He will then bless us beyond measure. Let our disappointments become His appointments.

QUESTIONS

1. Share a recent disappointment or how you have been praying for a matter that God has seemingly not answered. What is God revealing to you?

2. Which of the four aspects of journeying through brokenness resonates best with you now and why is that so?

3. "We exist for His Glory." As the message is about God using our brokenness for His Glory, what are some practical ways we can allow God to navigate through this journey with Him?