

## Healing a Broken Heart – John 11:17-27, 35-44

Just about everyone, sooner or later, will experience a broken heart.

You might have sadness, hurt, or bitter disappointment. You may have been in love, but that love wasn't returned. You might have been left alone by someone who promised they would never leave. You might have a child that you love more than anything; one that you would sacrifice your own life for; and they have rejected your love and guidance and relationship. You might have a broken heart for someone who has passed on; someone you will never see again this side of heaven. You might even be experiencing a breakdown in your relationship to God because of your broken heart.

Here are some very interesting verses from David, a man who experienced a broken heart on several occasions:

“You would not delight in sacrifice or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.” (Psalm 51:16-17)

How about that? When you are at your lowest, when you don't feel worthy of coming into God's presence, that's when He's the most receptive. That's when He opens up to you, and you can really fellowship with God. I think we should be encouraged by that knowledge.

To help us begin to understand the mind of Jesus about this, I want for us to consider some events that happened, and are recorded in John 11.

Here are some things we can learn from this chapter. First of all:

- Jesus understands your pain.
- Jesus will be with you in your pain.

Be assured – God knows your situation. He is with you in your pain. Just like he was with Mary and Martha, he will be with you. Open your heart; open your spirit. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.

- God never wastes a hurt! There is a reason why.

Jesus could have rushed over to Bethany and healed Lazarus. Lazarus could have been spared from death, and Mary and Martha could have been spared from their grief. There was a reason. Jesus proved that he was not just a physician, a miracle worker, and a teacher. His power was the ultimate power. The people there were definitely convinced, and even today, we are instructed and encouraged. God never wastes a hurt. There is a reason why.

- By responding in faith, we join Jesus in overcoming death and pain.
- God can heal your deepest pain.

God can heal your deepest pain. Jesus is with you. Jesus understands. Jesus has the power to make it happen. Jesus has the love to make it happen. “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise”