

GOD USES BROKEN THINGS

If something is broken, we generally discard it. However, God uses broken things to accomplish His purposes.

God used broken pitchers (Judges 7). Gideon conquered the Midianites by putting their lamps within pitchers; at his direction, the soldiers broke their pitchers and revealed the light, which greatly confused the Midianites, and they were defeated. The light of truth is often hidden by error, and it is when the error is broken that the light is revealed.

God used broken tables of stone (Exodus 32). Aaron had erected the golden calf because Moses had been gone and the people thought they had been abandoned. When Moses came down off the mount and saw what was happening, "he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them" (Exodus 32:19). He then took the golden calf, burned it in the fire, and ground it to powder. Next, he put it in the water supply and made the people drink it (Exodus 32:20). We must get rid of the world from our lives,

God used a broken alabaster box (Mark 14). "And she brake the box, and poured it on his head" (Mark 14:3). With this, the woman did what she could; we also must do what we can.

God used the broken body of Jesus (Matthew 26). When He instituted the Lord's Supper, Jesus took bread and blessed it (Matthew 26). Paul later wrote, quoting the Lord, "Take eat; this is my body, which is broken for you" (1 Corinthians 11:24). Note from the Scripture that His bones were not broken: "a bone of his shall not be broken" (John 19:36; Psalm 34:20).

God used the broken heart of David (Psalm 51). We must have a broken heart over our sin. David said, "A broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise" (Psalm 51:17).

Yes, God uses broken things. Perhaps your life has been broken by sin, but unlike Humpty Dumpty and the king's horses and men, God can put it back together again.

- Larry Acuff, Lithia Springs, GA (*House to House*, 2/2011)

THINGS TO GIVE UP ...

- Complaining** — focus on gratitude.
- Harsh judgments** — think kind thoughts.
- Worry** — trust God to provide.
- Discouragement** — be full of hope.
- Bitterness** — turn to forgiveness.
- Hatred** — return good for evil.
- Anger** — be more patient.
- Pettiness** — become mature.
- Jealousy** — pray for trust.
- Gossiping** — control your tongue.
- Sin** — turn to virtue.
- Give up giving up** — persevere.

- Author Unknown - *The Encourager*, Killeen, TX

We cannot shine if we have not taken time to fill our lamps.

News & Notes

CONFESSION: Daniel Mehlmauer.

RECENT RETIREES: David McKittrick retired April 1st from Weirton Steel/Acelormittal with 49 years service. Ernie Robinson retired April 23rd from Homer Laughlin China Co. after 47 years service. Congratulations and best wishes to David and Ernie for healthy and happy retirements.

HONOR ROLL STUDENTS: For the Third 9 Weeks at Oak Glen Middle School: Don Vantilburg, Grade 5 (grandson of Scharlotte Jones), and Maysun Reardon, Grade 6. Congratulations to these students on their accomplishments.

NEW CONVERT CLASS: Each Sunday a.m. Bible Class in Room 406. This class is for those who were baptized in the last three years.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Resumes next Tuesday, May 1st at 9:00 a.m. All ladies are welcome to participate in this activity to make stuffed bears for sick kids. Ability to sew not required.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES: Resumes next Tuesday, May 1st at 7:00 p.m. All the men are encouraged to take part in this class.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, May 5th, 8:00 a.m. at Connie's Corner in Chester.

NURSING HOME DEVOTIONAL: Next Saturday, May 5th, 2:30 p.m. at Fox.

NO COVERED DISH DINNER OR EARLY AFTERNOON SERVICE IN MAY.

CHESTER'S LADIES INSPIRATION DAY: Saturday, May 12th, 9:00 a.m. - Noon. Topic: "Be Ye Different From The World" with speakers, Nancy Hadley and Janet Malcomson. Lunch Provided.

HOME VISITS: Our Elders and Minister are making home visits to get to know the members better. Schedule a visit here at the building or in your home by signing the sheet on the desk, or arrange an appointment by talking to Rico. Otherwise, expect an impromptu visit.

PANTRY: Canned peas, lima beans, and beets.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS & CARDS: Cindy Moore (Pat Allison's cousin). Cindy has bone cancer and is not doing well. Her address: 2760 Craig Circle, Fullerton, CA 92835. Cindy thanks all who sent cards or prayers when she was mentioned in our bulletin several months ago.

SICK & SHUT-IN: CLEVELAND CLINIC: Mike Kodrich (Betty Henthorne's son). **AT HOME:** Charlie Delong, David McCoy, Bill & Carol Stillwell, Russell Martin, Blondenia Orr, Betty Henthorne, Doris Dunham, Alex Harless. **FOX NURSING HOME:** Mary Jane Bowers (Room 19), Mary Nelson. **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller, Jim Mick. **CALCUTTA HEALTH CARE:** Ella Beagle. **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.