

Living Through the BROKENNESS - 8

Not many times in my ministry have I stood before the Lord and His people without any previous preparation and documentation for the message. This past Sunday was an exception.

So, just as I was transparently and utterly dependant upon the Lord's guidance "in the moment" of preaching, so will we all be in our recap and study of the theme – *The Shepherd's Heart – Living through the Brokenness*.

However, I am offering the following passages of scripture for our reference this week to help discover some truths about ourselves, our church and our level of commitment. These are the passages the Lord revealed to me for the message this past Sunday.

(Use the margins to share the inspiration that comes from your reading.)

PSALM 34:1-10 NLT

- ¹ I will praise the LORD at all times.
I will constantly speak his praises.
- ² I will boast only in the LORD;
let all who are helpless take heart.
- ³ Come, let us tell of the LORD's greatness;
let us exalt his name together.
- ⁴ I prayed to the LORD, and he answered me.
He freed me from all my fears.
- ⁵ Those who look to him for help will be radiant
with joy; no shadow of shame will darken
their faces.
- ⁶ In my desperation I prayed, and the LORD listened;
he saved me from all my troubles.
- ⁷ For the angel of the LORD is a guard;
he surrounds and defends all who fear him.
- ⁸ Taste and see that the LORD is good.
Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!
- ⁹ Fear the LORD, you his godly people,
for those who fear him will have all they need.
- ¹⁰ Even strong young lions sometimes go hungry,

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PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11 NLT

- ¹Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ?
Any comfort from his love?
Any fellowship together in the Spirit?
Are your hearts tender and compassionate?
- ²Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.
- ³Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others.
Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.
- ⁴Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.
- ⁵You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.
- ⁶Though he was God,
he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.
- ⁷Instead, he gave up his divine privileges;
he took the humble position of a slave
and was born as a human being.
When he appeared in human form,
- ⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God
and died a criminal's death on a cross.
- ⁹Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest Honor and gave him the name above all other names,
- ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
- ¹¹ and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.