

Wounded in the House of My Friends...

Today I'm going to preach the most unusual message about the most unusual subject in my 32 years of Pastoral Ministry. God has been dealing with me in my night visions for 3-4 days.

I'm going to ask for your patience and undivided attention for the short time that we have together. This message will speak directly to your life and family. At the end of this message, I am going to lead us all in a prayer of deliverance...so open and prepare your heart for God's Word...

I am overwhelmed at the trauma, hurt and pain that I see in people. Mental health problems are actually very common:

- **One in five** American adults experienced a mental health issue.
- **One in 6** young people experienced a major depressive episode.
- **One in 20** Americans lived with a serious mental illness, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or major depression.
- **Suicide is a leading cause of death in the United States.** In fact, it was the 2nd leading cause of death for people ages 10-24.
- It accounted for the loss of more than 45,979 American lives - nearly double the number of lives lost to homicide.
- **The greatest decline in mental health is amongst youth and young adults.**

Social media outlets have pulled the cover back on the very ugly truth that people are totally broken to the core. As we callously talk about people with major issues, even those who do outlandish things like the covenant shooting; as Christians, we must remember at the root is a person that is broken. People who are that far out did not likely get there independently. Most of them have experienced deep trauma that opened the door to demons. However, please keep in mind that Jesus gave his life for these people just as he did for you.

I wish that I could tell you that these terrible statistics only apply to the unregenerated, lost, hopeless souls held captive by the world, the flesh, and the devil.

However, can I confess something to you?... Many other people in "God's Church" are also damaged goods. There is no hurt like "church hurt". There are a lot of reasons for that, but I don't have the time or emotional energy needed to run those rabbit trails... Can I also confess to you...

- I've been strung along, overworked, and taken advantage of.
- I've disclosed personal information in confidence and then had it shared broadly.
- I've had people sow seeds of doubt and mistrust in my marriage.

- I've been falsely accused by people with agendas – their personal lives filled with sin and perversion, but I couldn't reveal what I knew.
- I've been misled, backstabbed, and left to pick up the pieces.
- I've been devalued, ignored, and publicly "made-an-example-of."
- I've had friendships fall apart and been forced to watch people walk away.
- My family has been slandered, made fun of, been talked about around dinner tables.
- Like many other ministers, we have had many sleepless nights worrying about our future.
- Over a million times I have wanted to throw in the towel, give up, defend myself or lash out.

Like everyone else around me, I'm damaged goods. No one gets through life without pain, and I have been no exception to the rule. I am not sharing this with you today to stir your sympathy or compassion, to manipulate you into feeling sorry for me or to win you approval. No, I share this with you so that you will know that I am like you – damaged goods.

But I have made a decision that a lot of people have yet to make. This decision has nothing to do with me being in full time ministry or having a role in spiritual leadership...

My trauma will not upend my faith – it will only deepen it!

I'm not letting hell win! What the Devil meant for evil, God has and will turn for my good. No weapon that has been formed against me has ever worked. God has contained and condemned every word and every lie spoken against me.

If you have been hurt and have suffered trauma, God has had you on my heart all week and today I have a message from the throne room for you...

THERE IS HOPE AND HEALING

Zechariah 13:6 (KJV) - ⁶And one shall say unto him, "What are these wounds in thine hands?" Then he shall answer, "Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends."

- This is a messianic prophecy, and the context sustains this thought.
- The Prophet Zechariah had already stated in chapter 12:10: *"And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourned for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn."* This is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Israel is converted nationally after seeing Him with His identifying wounds.

- The Apostle John quotes the verse in Revelation 1:7: *“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.”*
- John and Zechariah point back to what King David wrote centuries earlier in Psalm 22:16: *“For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.”*
- In John 19:37, we read of Jesus Christ’s crucifixion: *“And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.”*

No wonder the writer of Hebrews stated...

Hebrews 4:14-16 (NLT) - ¹⁴So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. ¹⁵This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. ¹⁶So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

If you are hurting today, if you have suffered a traumatic relationship, if someone has walked out on you, if a Pastor has neglected you or misused you... Jesus knows right where you are...

Give God you hurt, and He will give you His healing power. Give God your weakness and he will give you His grace. Give God your damaged emotions and He will give you His dangerous love.

Give Him your brokenness and He will give you His blessing!

An overlooked story / An overlooked revelation: In 2 Samuel 23 there is an elite list of David’s mighty men of war. I want to draw your attention to a few names and show you a revelation:

2 Samuel 23:34-39 - ³⁴Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of the Maachathite, **Eliam the son of Ahithophel** the Gilonite, ³⁵Hezrai the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbite, ³⁶Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite, ³⁷Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite (armorbearer of Joab the son of Zeruiah), ³⁸Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite, ³⁹and **Uriah the Hittite**: thirty-seven in all.

- You’ve got **Ahithophel** – David's royal advisor
- You’ve got **Eliam** – one of the elite- -23:34 – Eliam the son of Ahithophel
- Also on that list is **Uriah**--23:39 – Uriah the Hittite.

This is the elite of the elite: They have fought together, traveled together, lived together. **What is interesting about these three is that they are the family of Bathsheba.**

- Uriah the Hittite - was Bathsheba's husband
- Eliam - is Bathsheba's father
- Ahithophel - Was Bathsheba's grandfather / Eliam's Dad.

Context:

- Because of David's sin, Ahithophel has joined forces with Absalom as he leads a revolt against his own granddaughter's kingdom.
- Ahithophel gives us a glimpse into the darkness of a heart controlled by bitterness.
- Ahithophel must have internalized the situation with Bathsheba, Uriah, and the child (his great grandchild) that died.
- There is never a recorded instance of Ahithophel discussing this with David.
- He never let David know about his hurt, his pain, his wounds.
- He just let that sore fester up inside him until it turned to bitterness.

2 Samuel 17:23 - ²³ Now when Ahithophel saw that his advice was not followed, he saddled a donkey, and arose and went home to his house, to his city. Then he put his household in order, and **hanged himself, and died**; and he was buried in his father's tomb.

He was wounded in the house of His friends

- Ahithophel shows us what the fruit looks like of the root of bitterness...
- Giving our hearts over to bitterness means that we have resisted the promptings of the Holy Spirit!

Conclusion:

Psalm 55:12-15 (NLT) - It is not an enemy who taunts me—I could bear that. It is not my foes who so arrogantly insult me—I could have hidden from them. ¹³ Instead, it is you—my equal, my companion and close friend. ¹⁴ What good fellowship we once enjoyed as we walked together to the house of God. ¹⁵ Let death stalk my enemies; let the grave swallow them alive, for evil makes its home within them.

- Yes church hurt is normal and painful, but no matter the trauma in you life...

My trauma will not upend my faith – it will only deepen it!