



The Necessity of Brokenness- *Apostle Harry L. Jackson*

I have had it in mind to preach on "The Broken Place." Reading Chapt 6 of Arthur Katz's "Apostolic Foundations" is bringing me back to that particular message.

I recall an incident that I had had over ten years ago with a man of God, whom I know for a fact, never "goes off" on people, but at that particular, time, I was "running my mouth," and obviously WRONG. He just looked at me, and as gently, yet sternly as he could said, "You close your mouth. I have had just about enough of you." I would have NEVER, as some of these young ministers who think that they know it all are wont to do, have said something stupid like, "you are not my father/apostle/pastor, etc." or "I'm a grown man/ man of God, etc. just like you.." but simply said, "yes sir!" and I shut up. I may have been young and foolish, but I was NOT a spoiled brat who could not take correction.

I believe that that was a defining moment in life and ministry for me, as at that moment God released this man to be such a blessing to me from that day to this. When I needed help with living arrangements, he helped me. When I needed a plate of food, he helped me. When no one wanted to believe in me, and advised him to abandon me, as they did, he stood by me. When others have jealously watched me rise to the platform, and wondered how I got there, I truly believe that it was this one act of submission to the authority of a man who was older than me, both in life and in ministry, as well as my walk with God, who obviously knew more than I did, that has assisted me to the place where I am now, and is an attitude which I know will propel me into God's purpose for my life, and to this day, I can go to him at any time, anywhere and receive any assistance that I may need. It was this same man of God who was standing with me the last time I saw my father alive, and, to this day, believes that to be one of the most tremendous experiences of his life.

There are a whole lot of young people out here who need to learn this lesson. There are too many unbroken people out here who claim to speak for God. Therefore, don't be deceived by clever speakers, and those who claim to have "revelation" from God, especially when they are young and inexperienced. Look at their track record. How long and how strong are they in the faith? How much suffering do they have under their belts? How many battles have they fought? Do they know what it is like to be rejected, misunderstood, abandoned, in lack, and yet still trust in the God who called them out of darkness and into His marvelous light? How many times have they had to rise from the dust, bloodied and battered, to fight again another day, though their circumstances screamed out "Curse your

God and die?" Many of us think that because we have studied some, and perhaps come up in the company of certain people, and are favored with a degree of attention, that we have attained to something that we have not, and therefore, are not grateful to the God who favored us, and erroneously believe that we possess something that can only be gained through hard experience. A soldier, fresh out of Basic Training, carrying a shiny, new weapon that has never been used in combat, and wearing a uniform unstained with the blood of his enemies cannot pertain to the status of a general, no matter how good he looks, or how many "great high muck-a-mucks" pin stars on his shoulders. Something about his talk, his demeanor, his character, his lack of brokenness will betray his lack of wisdom and real spiritual experience.

The fact that he is brash, cocky, not easy to be entreated, right about everything, disrespectful to those more experienced than he, even considering himself their equal, betrays his unbrokenness. When a man is not broken, everything he does is "flesh on parade." He is like an alabaster box that has not been crushed, so that the fragrant oil can be released. He looks good, but we don't smell anything. He talks about God, but all we see is him, him, him. When he speaks, he draws attention to the brilliance of his own thoughts, and not to Christ. When he is censured for his oft-inappropriate statements, he is quick to defend HIS call, HIS ministry, HIS point of view, instead of the doctrine that he claims to represent. Listen to what he says. Listen, and discern. Is he in love with his God, or with his own thoughts, his own self? Unbroken people talk like they are unbroken. They make true statements, but there is no grace in their talk. Their instruction is not instructive, but derogatory. Their "prophetic" utterances, instead of edifying, exhorting, and comforting, tickle the flesh, but leave the spirit man empty. In spite of all of that "carnal" Christians flock to them, and rally around them like rock-star groupies, refusing to hear the true, unadulterated Word of God. They denigrate others and their ministries, and claim to speak for God, not realizing that our God is not a God who thrives on making others look bad so that He can look good. They emphasize their gifts, but their talk betrays their lack of character. I once heard an older man of God say, "going there can't tell been there how to get there," and at the time, I found that statement highly offensive. I think that I now understand what he meant by that. He was talking about the development of character that can only be attained to by being broken by God. some of us have it, most of us are in various stages of it, but a person who has not experienced any sort of brokenness is one who is to be seen as a danger to his brethren, and though he may be gifted, talented, articulate, even good-looking and charismatic, has no authority to speak to God's people, being unable to lead others to where he himself has not been.