

ROMANS
Lesson 398–January 28, 2018

Welcome To
BARAH MINISTRIES
a Christian Church
Rory Clark
Pastor-Teacher

Good Morning!

Welcome to Barah Ministries...a Christian Church with worldwide impact based in Mesa, AZ...my name is Pastor Rory Clark. At Barah Ministries, our God is the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Lord, God the Son, is the One who came to earth and tabernacled among us...taking on the form of a human being named Jesus Christ. He is the Jewish Messiah...who lived sinless for thirty-three years...who was broken for all creatures at the Cross...who died...who was buried...who was resurrected from the dead...who ascended into heaven...who is now seated at the right hand of the Majesty...God the Father...on high...waiting for that moment when His enemies will be made a footstool for His feet.

The Lord Jesus Christ loves broken people...Psalm 38, Verses 15 to 18 say...

PSALM 38:15

The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous (believers in Christ) and His ears are open to their cry.

PSALM 38:16

The face of the Lord is against evildoers (unbelievers)...to cut off the memory of them from the earth.

PSALM 38:17

The righteous cry...and the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.

PSALM 38:18

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

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What has the Lord provided to save you from a crushed spirit? Who has the Lord provided to save you from your brokenness? Our Lord loves broken people, and in honor of Him...as we move on in Romans, Chapter 12...

TODAY’S BIBLE LESSON

This is for All the Broken People

I’d like to paraphrase a song from the group America. Their song was called, “Lonely People.” Instead of using the term lonely people, I’d like to use the term “broken people.” Here’s how the lyrics would sound in my version of the song...

BROKEN PEOPLE

This is for all the broken people
Thinking that life has passed them by
Don’t give up until you
Drink from the silver cup
And find that highway in the sky

America songwriter Dan Peek wrote “Lonely People” as a response to a Beatles song...Eleanor Rigby...a song that painted an overwhelmingly negative picture of loneliness and lonely people. Peek thought lonely people could “drink from the silver cup” ... that is ... they could “drink from another person’s well and be refreshed.” I agree.

As a ministry, we have spent a lot of time learning the truth and getting our own personal thinking straight. Yet even with sitting in front of the truth every week, our ministry isn’t growing very much. It begs the question, “What are the people in Barah Ministries doing for the broken people in our community?” A friend of mine said recently, “There are a lot of broken people in the world.” My friend is right. I am first and foremost of them. Again...I ask you...what are the people in Barah Ministries doing for the broken people in our community? We have to ask ourselves the question... we need to pay attention to the answer with sober and objective thought... and we need to do something about what we find out. In today’s lesson, we’ll get God’s thoughts on how Christians can serve the world’s broken people.

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MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ
Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

RESURRECTION POWER

Chris Tomlin

Many of the broken people in this world are entangled in a religion that is choking the life out of them, scaring them to death, and to robbing them of their freedom. On the other hand, on several occasions, I have heard people say that Barah Ministries has “saved their lives.” If this place is powerful enough to save lives, why aren’t we telling other people about it? Why aren’t we inviting broken people here? Here’s Chris Tomlin to sing about the power believers in Christ have within...RESURRECTION POWER.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...

Almighty God and Father...thank you for the power you have to heal those who are broken, especially those who are in despair...thank you for Your omnipresence, because we know you are always with all those who are broken and hurting...even at this very minute...even when they don’t always know, you are always there...thank you for making Your presence felt...

Father, deliver broken people from their despair...use Your broken people at Barah Ministries to make a difference in this lost and dying world...we know this is your ministry and we know you have a purpose for it and we know you are a patient God who always does everything at exactly the right time...give us the strength to answer Your call and to bring Your unconditional love and Your hope and Your gospel message to those who need it...

We ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit...in Christ’s name...Amen.

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Let's begin our transition into the third passage of Romans, Chapter 12...Verses 3 to 8...and as we introduce the third passage we'll remind you of the translation of the first two passages...beginning at Romans, Chapter 12, Verse 1...

ROMANS 12:1

Therefore...I (Paul)...urge (beseech) you...brethren (believers in Christ)... as you keep on being persuaded because of the many and multi-faceted mercies of God...TO PRESENT YOUR BODIES (by choice, not by command...as) AS A LIVING SACRIFICE...holy and acceptable to God the Father... which is your spiritual service...worship.

God wants Christians to show up and to grow up! In other words, He wants us to voluntarily report for duty as bond slaves of the Lord.

ROMANS 12:2a

And do not be conformed to this world (by Satan, by his cosmic system of thought, and by the flesh resident in you)...instead, keep on being transformed by (God the Holy Spirit)...through the renewing of your mind (by studying the Word of God)...

God wants Christians to let Him renovate their thinking. He wants to load up our thoughts. He wants us to have our souls tuned to KGOD, and He wants us to make every decision using His viewpoint of the situation.

As the two systems of power seek to influence our thoughts, the Lord wants us to use Teflon when we hear the thoughts of the cosmic system, letting them slip off of us as if we were a non-stick surface. He wants us to use Velcro when His thoughts are being inculcated as if we are interlocking His thoughts to our souls. Satan's thoughts conform us...God's thoughts transform us...a brilliant metamorphosis that turns us into spiritually mature Christians who not only learn wisdom, but also use it.

ROMANS 12:2b

...so that you may see clearly...through the testing of experience...what the will of God is...and the will of God is that which is good for you and that which is acceptable to Him and that which is perfect (in result).

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God expects us to learn through experience...He surrounds us with a sphere of grace, and forgiveness and unconditional love. He would prefer that we don't learn things the hard way, but He allows us to learn from our mistakes and He wants us to treat those mistakes as lesson. Now on to the new passage...Romans, Chapter 12, Verses 3 to 8...

ROMANS 12:3

For through the grace given to me by God (the grace gift of being an apostle...Paul's spiritual gift), I (Paul) say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think...but to think so as to have sound judgment...thinking in line with the measure of faith given to you by God (your spiritual gift).

Ruh-Roh...time to talk about our spiritual gifts and to see that paralysis you get every time you have to consider the subject.

ROMANS 12:4

For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same office...

ROMANS 12:5

...so we, who are many, are one body in union with Christ...and individually we are members one of another.

ROMANS 12:6

Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace gift given to us...each of us is to exercise the gift accordingly...if you have the gift prophecy, exercise it according to the proportion of your faith...

ROMANS 12:7

...if you have the gift of service, in your serving...or if you are one who teaches, in your teaching...

ROMANS 12:8

...or if you are one who exhorts, in your exhortation... if you are one who gives, with liberality...or if you are one who leads, with diligence...or if you are one who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

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Romans, Chapter 12 starts in a general way...PRESENT YOUR BODIES AS A LIVING SACRIFICE...and then it begins to get more specific...DON'T BE CONFORMED...LET GOD TRANSFORM YOUR THINKING...then LEARN THROUGH EXPERIENCE HOW TO USE THE THINKING THAT COMES FROM GOD (that's wisdom)...and in the third passage Paul moves from general to really specific...USE YOUR THINKING IN YOUR SPECIALTY AREA...the subject is spiritual gifts. This lesson is for all the broken people.

What has to be fundamental when you are a Christian looking at another person is that you are looking at a broken person. What also has to be fundamental when you are a Christian is that you are broken yourself.

That's worth repeating!

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Winston Churchill's wife is reported to have said to him during a crisis of his government...

SAID TO WINSTON CHURCHILL

You are strong because you are imperfect.

You are wise because you have doubts.

What a great way for us to look at each other. Or as the group Human League would say in one of their famous songs, "I'm only human! Born to make mistakes!" Unfortunately, as human beings, that is not how we look at each other. It's always amazing to me when people are bothered by my imperfections...I am not at all bothered by theirs. Don't get me wrong...I have pet peeves...I would rather you didn't squeeze the toothpaste from the middle...and yeah...maybe I won't put the toilet seat down and I won't understand why you would sit down without looking where you sit...though admittedly I have done it myself...but I wouldn't really consider discarding a relationship with you because I found out you were imperfect.

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Satan encourages us to be put off by the imperfections of others. God tells us to do something different...Second Corinthians, Chapter 5, Verse 16...

SECOND CORINTHIANS 5:16

Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh...even though we have known Christ according to the flesh...yet now we know Him in this way no longer.

The first thing you will see in another person is their physical body. The first thing you will experience from another person is their conduct. Yet the Lord tells us not to evaluate people based on externals. In his “I Have a Dream” speech, Dr. Martin Luther King said...

I HAVE A DREAM

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today!

Likely the first thing you will experience from others is the flesh...whether it is unbelievers or believers we interact with they will have the flesh...a dead part of them that is antagonistic to God...antagonistic to others and self-destructive...yet if they are believers in Christ, there is a soul and spirit inside of them that needs to be seen as well. If we don't look beyond the flesh, then we won't see the real person. We are not to judge a book by its cover.

This lesson is for all the broken people. That's all of us. Yet there are some broken people with a broken spirit. What is a broken spirit? Let's take a music break...and when we come back we'll investigate the idea of brokenness. As reflections of a gracious God, when we encounter the brokenness of others, it's a good time to invite them to the newness of spiritual birth. Here's Lincoln Brewster with his song, MADE NEW.

MUSIC BREAK

MADE NEW

Lincoln Brewster

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Thank you for supporting this ministry with your finances. Through your generous support, the Lord has been able to provide the Word of God from this pulpit for over a decade. There is no way to measure how many broken souls have been touched by your generosity, but we know God is making it happen.

Let's take a few moments to give you a chance to make an offering. If you are benefiting from the work of this ministry, then we ask you to contribute to the continuation of the ministry with any gift, large or small, so we can keep on providing the truth to those who might not otherwise be able to hear it. Please welcome up Deacon Denny Goodall with his offering message.

THE OFFERING

Deacon Denny Goodall

OFFERING VERSE

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:10

According to the grace of God that was given to me...like a wise master builder I laid a foundation...and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on the foundation.

OFFERING

FLIGHT OF THE EAGLE

Dave McClure, Instrumental

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We all know broken people...all of us are broken. It's the sin in us that breaks us. Satan can take credit for the brokenness...as federal head of the angelic race, his sin broke the entire race of angelic creatures. With Adam's first sin, as federal head of the human race, he broke all mankind. We live with the destruction.

There are some broken people with a broken spirit. This lesson is for all the broken people. To "break someone's spirit" is to destroy their self-esteem...to have a negative impact on their joy in life...to have them questioning who they are...to blot out their dreams...to rob them of hope...to beat them down emotionally to the point where they go from being who they are to being someone who has lost all hope concerning the person they might become. It's that point when a person loses that special something inside that makes them value self.

Breaking someone's spirit is often done by physical, or mental, or emotional or sexual abuse - or worse, by all of these methods in combination.

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When a person's spirit is broken, they often feel they don't deserve joy... they often feel they don't deserve happiness...they lose all desire...they lose their ambition...they have a feeling of total emotional defeat. Being a Pastor is a prescription for a broken spirit.

A broken spirit can happen to people in many different situations...perhaps a parent treats a child in a demeaning and belittling manner...perhaps a spouse treats a wife or husband in a destructive way...a broken spirit can happen when a child is being bullied by other children...a broken spirit can happen for prisoners being treated badly by the prison staff or by other inmates.

A broken spirit can happen when a person is a victim of a violent crime, such as a woman who is sexually assaulted by a group of men. A broken spirit can happen when a spouse asks for a divorce. As hard as it might be for you to believe, I find myself with a broken spirit for prolonged periods of time at the end of a marital relationship. A broken spirit can happen when a person is laid off from or fired from a job. The person may feel rejected and unwanted.

Having a broken spirit can often leave a person in a state of depression, which can also result in suicidal thoughts, because in many cases, the person has been conditioned to believe they aren't worthy...not only that they are not worthy of happiness, but also that they are not worthy of life itself.

When a person's spirit is broken they become worthless in their own eyes. We can break another person's spirit...we can beat someone down...we can destroy their confidence...we can communicate to them that they are worthless...we can communicate to them that they will never ever make anything of themselves.

Sometimes we break our own spirit. By letting down our defenses with those closest to us, we can let words and actions affect us so deeply that we experience a level of pain that goes far beneath the surface. It's the kind of pain that finds its way into our precious souls.

A lot of times, the person we credit with breaking our spirit is the one who simply triggers the pain...but the source is us. We have been hurt...we have emotionalized the hurt...we refuse to let the hurt go...and another person

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inadvertently incites the pain, giving you another chance to resolve it once and for all. Will you?

Quite often, we have given up on ourselves which leads to a broken spirit. We don't know how to grow...and we stay in this state for so long that we begin to believe that we can't grow. That's a broken spirit.

Horse trainers will tell you that it is important to break a horse...and they will tell you there are essentially two ways to break a horse...sweetly or with hostility. However, whichever method they choose, they will also quickly tell you that while they want to break the horse, they never want to break the horse's spirit.

Sometimes breaking a person teaches them to no longer rely on the values they grew up with...we see this in the military. Drill Sergeants are responsible for breaking new troops so they are ready for combat. Sometimes breaking a person teaches them to adopt a new set of values that is more supportive of an amazing future.

The Lord breaks us...according to Galatians, Chapter 2, Verses 19 and 20...

GALATIANS 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ...and it is no longer I who live...but Christ lives indwelling me...and the life which I now live in the flesh (my physical body) I live by faith in the Son of God...who loved me unconditionally and who gave Himself up for me.

Brokenness in the spiritual life is a death and a resurrection...the Lord crucifies the old man in us believers...breaking us...replaces it with a new man...resurrecting us...yet many Christians still live that dead life.

As we study the third passage of Romans, Chapter 12...in Verses 3 to 8...I want you to begin thinking about the broken people in our community. There are people in our community who are in bondage to all manner of sins and maladies...addiction, sexual strongholds, fatherlessness, divorce, estrangement from children, murder, homosexuality, and unbelief...there are many things that contribute to our brokenness.

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The question we have to ask as a ministry is, “What are we doing to ease the pain of the broken people in our community?” That’s a great question for reflection this week. Specifically, “What are you doing with your spiritual gift to alleviate the pain of the broken people in our community?”

As we consider this question, remember this...Romans, Chapter 8, Verse 1...

ROMANS 8:1

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in union with Christ Jesus.

There is no need for us to feel guilty for what we have or haven’t done. But what is certain is that going forward, our spiritual gifts need to be put to use to make a difference in the lives of broken people with broken spirits.

GOD WANTS YOU!

Make the Most Important Decision of Your Life

The closing moments of our study are for the benefit of anyone who does not have a personal relationship with the Sovereign God of the Universe, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We want you to know that **GOD WANTS YOU**.

What is going to happen to you when you close your eyes in this life? In other words, how can you get to heaven?

Many people believe that religious rituals are their ticket into heaven. They embrace religious beliefs that tell them how to live a spiritual life. The religion claims there is a God, or there are many gods...but the religion does not tell you how to have a personal relationship with God. And, despite all of your religious rituals, the religion may not guarantee that following these rituals will get you into heaven. What kind of religion is that?

In John, Chapter 4, Verses 13 and 14, the Lord Jesus Christ is talking to a woman at a well...a Samaritan woman whom the Jews of His day wanted nothing to do with. After a brief conversation, the Lord says to her...

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JOHN 4:13

“Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again...”

JOHN 4:14

“...but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst...but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”

It is the Lord’s will for you to come to heaven to live with Him when you close your eyes in this life. Second Peter, Chapter 3, Verse 9...

SECOND PETER 3:9

The Lord is not slow about His promise of salvation, as some accuse Him of, but instead He is patient toward you unbelievers, not wishing for any of you to perish (in the Lake of Fire) but for all of you to come to repentance (a change of mind about having a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ).

First Timothy, Chapter 2, Verses 3 and 4...

FIRST TIMOTHY 2:3

This is good and acceptable in the sight of the God who is our Savior (the Lord Jesus Christ)...

FIRST TIMOTHY 2:4

...who desires all men to be saved and who desires for all men to come to the knowledge of the truth.

The truth of how to get to heaven is this simple...it’s a nine-word conversation...Luke, Chapter 23, Verses 42 and 43...

LUKE 23:42

And a thief being crucified next to Jesus was saying, “Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!”

LUKE 23:43

And Jesus said to him, “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.”

Or if you prefer...it’s a five word conversation with God the Father...

“Father...I believe in Christ.” Simply believe...and that is the moment of

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eternal life for you. Once the Lord saves you, no matter how hard you try, you cannot lose your salvation...John, Chapter 10, Verse 28 says...

JOHN 10:28

“...and I (the Lord Jesus Christ) give eternal life to believers in Christ, and they will never perish...and no one will snatch them out of My hand.”

On the other hand, if you reject the relationship offer of this Lord who does not want you to perish, He will honor your refusal...Matthew, Chapter 13, Verses 49 and 50...

MATTHEW 13:49

So it will be at the end of the age...the angels will come forth and take out the wicked (unbelievers) from among the righteous (believers in Christ)...

MATTHEW 13:50

...and will throw the wicked (unbelievers) into the furnace of fire...in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Here's June Murphy to tell you more about the Lord's salvation offer in her beautiful song...

CLOSING SONG

BORN AGAIN

June Murphy

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray...

THANKS - INTERCESSION - PETITION

Thanks for coming!

Thanks for watching!

Thanks for listening!

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