The Art of Mending

Preamble:

Thank the pastor and the church (RHAC).

(Worship)

Topic: The Art of Mending

Text: Isaiah 64:8: Jeremiah 18:4 (King James Version)

“But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.” (Isaiah 64:8)

“And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.” (Jeremiah 18:4)

Prayer:

Objectives:

1. During the preaching, the people would understand the relation of the kintsugi into the lives of men.
2. During the preaching, the people would have the knowledge that God can restore, mend, repair a broken life and broken heart.
3. During the service, the people would come to repentance and into a restoration of self and to God.

Theme: Growing in the Spiritual Disciplines

Scripture Setting:

We are all masterpieces of God. Unlike the rest of the creation, we are created in the image of God. Genesis 1:27 says “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.” God is our Potter and we are the clay. We are the pot made unto the creation He has intended to. We are made not an accident but with a purpose. And in the mind of God, we are created with a specific plan.

Introduction:

But what do we do when we broke a glass? What do we do when we accidentally hit a vase and fell? And what do we do to damaged, broken, vessels? We neglected them. We throw them into the garbage bin. Because it has no longer perfect. A broken vessel will no longer serve its purpose. A broken glass of cup can be dangerous to be used. A damaged, Imperfect, broken piece of furniture is no longer beautiful. I want to preach to you today with the title The Art of Mending. I originally heard this message November 10, 2018 at Ripples UPC being preached by Pastor Brent Carter.

The Japanese art of Kintsugi, according to some stories, was invented in the fifteenth century when the Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimasa broke his favorite tea cup and that same tea cup was sent to China to be repaired. However, he was disappointed because the tea cup was stapled and it didn’t look so well. The shogun then hired some Japanese craftsmen to repair it. What the craftsmen did was they transformed the cup into a jewel by filing its cracks with lacquered resin and powdered gold. The result was remarkable. Kintsugi comes from two Japanese words; kin means golden and tsugi means repair. Kintsugi is the art of restoring something broken that makes it more beautiful and more valuable.

Proposition:

If we are the clay, didn’t we experience brokenness too? Didn’t we fall and become broken into a thousand pieces? We all have our broken dreams. We all experience a loss that left our hearts missing a certain part of it that can never be again restored. We all experienced something that we do not want to look back again because the pain is too unbearable and the scar is still there.

Transition Statement:

But in God’s mercy, goodness, lovingkindness, and grace…we are still here. Because God is not finished with you yet. You haven’t seen anything yet. And the best is yet to come. Until you see God face to face and be with Him forevermore, your story is not over yet. God is not just our Potter but He is also our Mender.

Body:

1. Broken Or Not Broken

In Psalm 31:12, King David said, “I am forgotten as a dead man out of mind: I am like a broken vessel. Broken or not broken, you are the clay. Broken or not broken, we are the vessels. Broken or not broken, I am made in the image of God. Broken or not broken, we have a purpose in life. Whether you are broken, scarred, or not broken, this message is for you. Whether you experience tribulation, persecution, a past that is traumatic, God is not finished with you yet. You may be in a jail right now, or there is something that chains you whether it is your past, a sin that haunts you, a sin you have not repented yet, it is not over yet. You can still be restored. Whether you have backslidden or thinking that you have no direction, you can still come home. You may be thinking to end your life, but God is not finished with you yet.

King David, in his brokenness and in the darkest time of his life, he lamented in Psalm 69:20 “Reproach hath broken my heart; and I am full of heaviness: and I looked for some to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none.” Broken or not broken, the Church is here to pray for you. Broken or not broken, the Church will not condemn you but will comfort you and will help you. Broken or not broken, the Church will not judge you by your past but will remind you of your future that you have in God.

1. God is the Mender and the Restorer

Psalm 147:3, the Bible says, “He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.”  God is the mender of our broken hearts and He can bind up the wounds of your broken spirit. I don’t know how broken you are, but God can restore you. Just like the kintsugi, God can make your brokenness into strength. He can make your evil past into good. Your scars, your scars can be healed. Your scars and your brokenness will not diminish your value. You think that you no longer of value. But you are wrong. Remember that you are created in His image. God sees you with so value that He became man and died for you. He will not throw you in the disposal but He will restore you. You think that you are worthless because of your past, and of your brokenness, but God sees your value. And just like the kintsugi, you become more valuable and more beautiful because of the works of God in your life. From brokenness into beauty. From worthlessness into a more valuable new creation.

In Psalm 51:17, the Bible says, “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.” God has not forgotten you and your afflictions and your pains. If you think that because of your sins and because of your past, you can no longer be used by God. I don’t believe that. I John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” God can restore you and He can make your brokenness into beauty. He can make those wounds a seal of His healing. God can restore you and He can make you a new creature. II Corinthians 5:17 says “There if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

In kintsugi; in the art of mending, it is not about perfection but it is about connection. Even how far you think you are from God, He is just near. You can find Him right here and right now. Psalm 34:18-19 says “The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.” God is so near in your situation right now. Just ask God to heal you, to restore you, and make you a new man.

Recap and Transition

1. The Brokenness of Christ

The Bible says in Acts 26:23 “That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.” The Lord knew that He would suffer and to die so that we would live in Him. In Isaiah 53:3-5, this is the prophetic words about Christ “He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.” Think about this, even the Lord was despised and rejected. He was sorrowful and grievous. He experienced pain and afflictions. And He was wounded, broken because of our transgressions (of our sins). His bruises are for our iniquities to be forgiven. His chastisements or punishments are for our peace. And His stripes are for our healing. And that is the Lord Jesus Christ. He knows how it feels to be broken. He knows the feeling of loneliness and of rejection. And He endured for our salvation.

We cannot complain about our sufferings because when God manifested in the flesh and became a man, He suffered for all and His sufferings were greater than all of us. But He endured.

Recap and Transition

Conclusion

Last verse, Hebrews 12:2 “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Whatever the situation you are facing right now, God is the Author of your life that everything He thinks about you are good things. Whatever the unbearable circumstances you are right now, God is the Finisher of our faith. He is not done with you yet.

Prayer

Let’s surrender our lives to God again. Find a place to repent, to pray, and to ask God to restore you.

Record:

Place: Richmond Hill Apostolic Church

Date: May 24, 2020

Occasion: Preaching

Observation:

Scriptures:

Isaiah 64:8

Jeremiah 18:4

Genesis 1:27

Psalm 31:12

Psalm 69:20

Psalm 147:3

Psalm 51:17

Psalm 34:18-19

Isaiah 53:3-5

Acts 26:23

Hebrews 12:2