

GROUNDED IN GRACE

Missional Living: Becoming a Broken Healer in a Wounded World Pt 1

Introduction: A Soul's Journey to Loving Others

I hope many of you have looked at the title and have wondered where I am going in this next series of devotionals. After pondering these thoughts for awhile now, I decided to write a more cohesive set of themes about missions, missional living, mercy, brokenness, and reaching out to the hurting and wounded. So like other series, this will be a new adventure for both of us. This will not be a comprehensive study. However, I hope it will be a journey into unknown territories of our hearts. Most of all, my prayer is that this will be a time of rest where you can draw water from the well spring of life. I hope these devotionals will enable you to sit with the Savior, enjoy some time of healing comfort and feel his personal touch in your souls.

There are several roads we will cross and stops along the way for conversations as we ponder missional living together. So it might be easiest to call this a soul journey into loving others in our brokenness and reaching out to the wounded. I will use this idea to outline the path we will take which may include some detours. Along the way, I will explain, entertain and examine the words I have chosen in the title to see if any changes need to be made as well. So this is where we will begin. . . .

Soul Journey #1 We will meet a woman of mixed race, lonely and confused. We will discover how a man breaks barriers others have built to love some one who is an outcast. We will watch a woman dialogue with this man and dialogue with her wounded condition as well.

Soul Journey # 2 We will journey with a man who not only gives us key thoughts on how to reach out to the broken but also shows us his personal touch, his vulnerability and his ability to risk in order to be with people who are on the fringes of society.

Soul Journey #3 We will stop and watch this man confront with truth, challenge thoughts, defensiveness and ultimately see the power of unconditional love prevail in a wounded heart.

Soul Journey #4 We will be challenged to see the effect one person can have on a whole community and give thought to how we can do the same.

Soul Journey #5 We will be challenged to give food to the ones who need to come buy and eat without cost and without conditions.

“So where in the world did this take place? How can I be a witness to these events? Where can I participate in this type of living?” I hope you are asking these and many more “heart” questions as we begin this journey. This adventure was written in the book of John (chapter four specifically) two thousand years ago between Jesus and a young lady who is better known as the “Woman at the Well.” We will begin our journey here and ponder what it means to be a “Broken Healer in a Wounded World.” It may not be the only stop along the journey but it seems to be the best place to start- watching Jesus live out the mission of his Heavenly Father.

For every time we speak encouragements to others; we write another column of dignity on their hearts. Every time we meet the needs of our neighbors, we show forth the face of God. Every time we dialogue with a person different than us, we will hear the echo of Jesus’ conversation with this woman.

This story was written in the past but I hope will be rewritten and experienced in the stories of tomorrow as we learn to love like Jesus. For every time we speak encouragements to others; we write another column of dignity on their hearts. Every time we meet the needs of our neighbors, we show forth the face of God. Every time we dialogue with a person different than us, we will hear the echo of Jesus’ conversation with this woman. However, the reverse is true as well. Every time we pass by without seeing, hearing and getting involved in the wounded world around us; we miss the blessing of God, the whisper of His Spirit and the imprint we can write on people’s souls. For this is the journey that awaits us, will you join me?

Dr. Steve Benson