

- **Song: Washed by the Blood by Randy Travis**
- **Trivia question**
- What four things did Jesus do to the bread at the last supper?
  - He **Took** the bread (In other words He chose it)
  - He **Blessed** the bread
  - He **Broke** the bread
  - He **Shared** the bread
- **SHARED** is the title of this talk!

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# SHARED

- Thus far we have discussed being Blessed-Broken –and Scared
- We are **not** called to be Blessed Broken and **SCARED**
- Blessed, Broken and **Scared** is **not** Eucharist, Communion, nor the Lord's Supper. It is simply blessed and broken.
- **We are chosen to be Eucharist**
- Scared leaves us **as ineffective evangelizers and keeps us broken.**
- We **are called to be** Blessed, Broken and **SHARED!**
- **SHARED** (H)
  - HONESTY: truthfulness, candor, or sincerity
  - Admit our brokenness and become vulnerable
- **Have you ever thought of yourself as EUCHARIST?**
- There is Joy in being saved
  - Some will shout it from the mountains
  - Others will show it in a quiet way
  - All like the blind man will be changed
- Christian Community is essential on our journey as disciples of Jesus Christ.
- Christianity is not a solo activity.
  - Three Dog Night sang ***"One is the loneliest number."***
  - Mother Teresa said: ***"Loneliness is the most terrible poverty"***
  - Dietrich Bonhoeffer said: ***"He who is alone with his sins is utterly alone!"***
- Recurring sin/addictive behaviors:
  - Isolate us from our true self

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- Isolate us from deep meaningful relationships in our life.
- Psychologists say the first two critical steps needed to break recurring sinful habits and addictive behaviors are:
  - Admitting to **yourself** that you have brokenness.
  - Admitting to **others** that you have brokenness.
- TRUE FRIENDSHIP (Sirach 6:14-16)
  - Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter; whoever finds one finds a treasure.
  - Faithful friends are beyond price, no amount can balance their worth.
  - Faithful friends are life-saving medicine; those who fear God will find them.
- Christ manifest himself to us through others and to others through us
- Why do we need community?
  - St. Catherine of Sienna Records that God told her: *“For I could well have supplied you with all your needs, both spiritual and material. But I wanted to make you **dependent on one another...**”*
- Brake Light story
  - Are your spiritual brake lights working?
- **The importance of small friendship groups**
  - it is important that we live our lives in some type of small weekly gathering of Christian friends.
  - These groups to build friendships
  - Like the paralytic in Luke’s Gospel, we often need the help of others to carry us to God.

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- THE CHRIST CENTERED FRIENDSHIPS TRIFOLD

- **Blessed**

- In what way did you most experience God's blessing in your life this week?
- Did God reveal anything new or surprising to you about Himself this week?
- Did God reveal anything new or surprising to you about you this week?

- **Broken**

- What obstacles and/or sins did you encounter in your life this week that clouded your relationship with God or kept you from being the disciple that you are called to be?

- **Shared**

- After reviewing your blessings and/or brokenness, what have you learned that you can share with others to help draw them closer to Christ?
- How were you an encourager this week to someone who was lost, hurt or broken?
- Did you miss any opportunities to share Christ with someone this week?

- *"A sweet friendship refreshes the soul"* (Proverbs 27:9)

- *"Laughter has something in it common with the ancient words of faith and inspiration; it unfreezes pride and unwinds secrecy; it makes people forget themselves in the presence of something greater than themselves."* G. K. Chesterton

- *"A friend loves at all times"* (Proverbs 17:17)

- Friends help us complete the puzzle of life.

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- 3 Personalities in Groups:
  - **Encourager**: Seeking
    - Do you draw people into discussions
    - Do you create a safe place to open up
    - Do you ask questions like: “Is there anything on your mind?”
  - **Inhibitor**: Push them away: I was often afraid
    - Do you make comments that tell others that it is not safe to be open and honest around you?
  - **Ignorer**:
    - Are you tuned out in group conversations?
    - Do you fail to listen closely to others?
    - Are you missing signs that someone might be hurting or broken?
  
- We can and must create a **Safe Zone** in our Christian groups?
  - Does your group encourage Honesty?
  - Are you an encourager? Invite others to share/ pry a little
  - We must be willing to open up
  
- **Be careful** who we tell, but **tell someone**
  - **Sirach 6** “When you gain friends, gain them through testing, and do not be quick to trust them.”
  - **Maybe you need to tell a professional**
  - God will lead you to someone
  - Telling too many may make it **worse**
  
- We must also keep in mind that we **can’t** always fix the problem:

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- “Weep with those who weep” Rom 12:15
- Mary, John and Simon were not able to stop the crucifixion but they were present for Jesus.
- **Song (Tenderly Calling by John Denver)**
  - Stand up and face your reflections the feelings you try to ignore
    - Mirror exercise
    - Do you see the real you?
    - Do you see a sinner?
    - Do you see someone broken by the world?
    - Do you see your well-hidden secrets?
    - Do you feel chained?
    - Does anyone but you know the REAL you?
    - Do you love this person as God does?
  - The Good News is GOD has **CHOSEN** YOU AS YOU ARE!
- Windshield story
  - Windshields look clean at night
  - Windshields look dirty in the sun
    - Like the sun through a windshield, the SON of GOD reveals our flaws and brokenness.
- If we are to be Eucharist for others then we need to become **Wounded Healers**
- Pope Francis: ***“The more conscious we are of our wretchedness and our sins, the more we experience the love and infinite mercy of God among us, then the more capable we are of looking upon the many “wounded” we meet along the way with acceptance and mercy.”***
  - Jesus was His most effective when He was most broken.

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- **MOON GLOW**

- The moon although nothing more than space junk reflects the sun and is beautiful.
- We do more than just reflect the SON OF GOD, he actually resides in us. Our challenge is to radiate his glow to others.

- **A BROKEN DOOR**

- A broken door can still allow entry to someone who once inside might encounter the perfect door of Jesus Christ.

- **ENCOUNTERING CHRIST IN OUR VULNERABILITY**

- We are chosen to be effective evangelizers
- We tell others we are broken ***not*** to boast of our brokenness but to boast of Jesus' mercy.
  - Will you remain Scared or will you for the sake of Jesus Christ shed your pride, become vulnerable and share your brokenness and/or wounds and your need for Jesus Christ with others?

- Two Heroes to today's story

- **BOB**

- Bob exhibited true Christian friendship
- Bob was an encourager.
- Bob helped me to open up about my brokenness.
- **Mary Beth** (my wife)

- Mary's quote: ***"If part of you is broken, then I love that part too, because I love all of you"***.

- God's Quote: ***"If part of you is broken, then I love that part too, because I love all of you"***.

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- Healing just begins when we open up, **it's not over!**
- We need to look inward first
  - But we can't stop there
  - Paralysis of analysis (Naval Gazing)
  - As I stated earlier, to be effective with others we must be introspective first
  - **We need to look: INWARD-UPWARD-OUTWARD**
- Once we have an encounter with Christ He calls us to go out to others
- **Look around----Sea of purple** all around us.
  - Everyone has their paper too!
  - Remember others wear masks as well as we do
  - You are called to help others reveal their purple!
- Brokenness is hard to spot
  - A mother who lost her son to suicide said:
    - **"It's hard to heal wounds you cannot see"**
- Had it not have been for Bob I might not have told anyone. I might still be chained to my sin.
- Are you ready to break someone else's chains?
- **You and I as EUCHARIST/COMMUNION**
  - Jesus' whole life was an act of total sharing of Himself out of love;
    - Jesus loved to be with the disciples and with the people He was able to meet. For Him this meant sharing their desires, their problems, what agitated their soul and their life.
  - Do we love, as Jesus wants, those brothers and sisters that are most in need?
- We must first see ourselves as forgiven and then be ready to forgive.

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- To be instruments of mercy because it was we who first received mercy from God
- Wine as the **BLOOD OF CHRIST**
  - **CAN YOU DRINK THE CUP** by Henri J. M. Nouwen
    - **HOLDING OUR CUP**
      - Looking critically at our life
      - It takes Courage
      - Sorrow and Joy
      - Varieties of wines and a variety of lives
      - You only get **one!** You can't drink the cup of another:
      - We must say: "this is my cup that was given to me"
    - **LIFTING OUR CUP**
      - We raise our cup with others and say: L'chaim.....TO LIFE
      - Together we drink our cup
      - *"The wounds of our individual lives, which seemed intolerable when lived alone, become sources of healing when we live them as part of a fellowship of mutual care."*
    - **DRINKING OUR CUP**
      - "Why do I have to be this person?" I didn't ask for it and I don't want it.
      - As we gradually come to befriend our own reality, to look with compassion at our own sorrows and joys, and as we are able to discover the unique potential of our way of being in the world, we can move beyond our protest, put the cup of our life to our lips and drink it, slowly, carefully but fully. Drink to the dregs!

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- We are called to be communion to others. We are called to be the body and blood of Christ. Are you ready?
- **SONG: HOW BEAUTIFUL by Twila Paris**

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