

POSSESSING THE LAND OF THE EMOTIONS **BRUISED & BITTER**

Introduction: Open to Isaiah 53

The Emotions along with the Will and Mind comprise the Soul of a man. The Soul is the self-conscious part of man. The soul is the seat of man's personality. The very elements that make us human: intellect, thoughts, ideals, love, emotion, choice, etc.; are all various experiences of the soul. Emotions are our likes and dislikes; our ability to show love or hate, to feel joy or anger, happiness or sadness, and so on. Without this ability, we would be insensitive and lifeless. It is within the soul of man, that the Land of the Emotions exists and make no doubt about it, the emotions are a battleground for the work of the enemy.

It is Satan's prime intention to bruise, in their emotions, every man, woman and child. We are all familiar with what a physical bruise is. It is an injury to the tissue under the surface of the skin, usually without a surface laceration. This is what Satan wants to do to your emotions. He wants to cause injury to you beneath the surface, in your emotions. There may be no visible surface wound but there is a very real wound in your emotions, to your soul; the very seat of your personality.

The purpose of this becomes evident, when you understand that bruises give him and his destructive work a place in your life. Bruises bind a person's life, to a time or an event. Scripture says that the work of Christ is "... to set at liberty them that are bruised" (Luke 4:18). Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever has come to undo the work of the enemy. His intention is for your bruises to be healed.

When you carry bruises throughout your life you are never free to be the person that God intends for you to be. Fear, insecurity, bitterness and rejections are evidences of this work. The oppression of the enemy remains until these works are revealed and undone. Over the next few weeks we will deal with bruises and how to find healing and release from the past.

1. It is the purpose of Satan to bruise BUT it is the purpose of Jesus to heal. Satan seeks to bruise the Body of Christ one person at a time. As a result, the Body of Christ is suffering, individually and collectively. Bruises keep the Body divided and the enemy dwells in the land. People that are bruised have a difficult time being joined together in a Body; fear and distrust separate them. These inner afflictions must be healed. As individuals are healed there is a wider result and ultimate purpose that begins to take shape; and that is that the Body of Christ begins to heal. As the Body heals, it is joined together, and the fullness of the Head will flow down through each member (Ephesians 4:16).

- a. **Have you been bruised?** Have you been betrayed, rejected, falsely accused, hated without cause or suffered loss? Of course, you have. When you suffer a strike with one of these or another assault of the enemy aimed at damaging your emotions, it creates a bruise; damage under the surface. An emotional black and blue. If you do not have a system to heal that contusion you will walk through life in emotional pain, turmoil and separated from God and healthy believers. You will be hampered in your ability to deal with your life circumstances, with the world around you, with the Body of Christ and with God Himself.
- b. **When you are bruised, you tend to internalize your situation.** You get trapped within yourself; your hurt, your pain, your rejection, your loss, your rights, and the wrong done to you gains power with each moment. You stop looking out and you do not look up. Instead you fixate on self and only see the wounding blow. Fear, anger, bitterness, confusion and depression grow wildly in this environment. This stops you from seeing your Lord, the only One Who can truly heal these deep wounds.
- c. **But it does not have to be that way.** Did you know that Jesus was bruised? How could Jesus be bruised you might wonder? Our griefs, sorrows, afflictions and sins were laid upon Him. Perhaps it would do us all well to read Isaiah 53 tonight or tomorrow. The first half of verse 5 says, “But He was wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities...” There was nothing in Him deserving of such hurt, rejection and pain. No action of His and no power of Hell is strong enough to wound Him in such away. He had to willingly allow such treatment and anguish.

Why? The later portion of verse 5 reads, “...The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.” He bore mankind’s punishment, so that man could have peace. He was beaten so that man could be healed. He was wounded so we could be whole.

d. HEAR THIS! In Jesus, there is peace for you! And in Jesus there is healing for you! “The chastisement for your peace *was* upon Him, and by His stripes you are healed.” Just let those words settle in your soul and in your spirit for a moment. Don’t just listen to them, hear them.

2. Satan knows how to cripple a person by bruising. Satan looks for targets of opportunity. He is no respecter of person, if he can bruise you, he will.

a. Innocent children are prime targets for bruising. Innocent children, who are targets of the enemy, carry bruises throughout their lives and are never free to be the person that God intended them to be. Fear, insecurity, bitterness and rejections are evidences of this work. The oppression of the enemy remains until these works are revealed and undone.

- i.** Fear and loss imposed upon a child will cause that child to stop developing normally into a healthy adult.
- ii.** Feelings of rejections from parents, family members, authority figures and peers are effective methods of inflicting unseen damage on the life of a child who has done no wrong.
- iii.** Physical, sexual, psychological and spiritual abuse open the door to the bruising of Satan.
- iv.** There are literal too may doors to name by which the bruising of Satan can come to a young life. But the result is always the same: a bruised child will grow into a bruised adult. They will be hindered in their ability to love and be loved. They will consistently make self-destructive life choices; I call them death choices; because they never produce life.
- v.** The same wounding will be passed down to the next generation. The wounded will beget more wounded. They will reproduce after like kind. It is both a spiritual and physical law.
- vi.** This cycle is only broken by receiving the healing of the Lord.

vii. If you were wounded, abused, rejected or suffered great loss as a child, it is affecting you. You may say, “Well it was a long time ago.” Time does not heal all wounds. Maybe you feel, “I have kept a job and done the best that I can.” I want you to know that there is more than that for you. Perhaps you are here today and say, “Well, yes I am messed up after all the stuff that happened to me how could I be anything else but messed up?” There is hope for you, there is healing for you, there is freedom for you. “The chastisement for your peace *was* upon Him, and by His stripes you are healed.”

b. Christians are prime targets of Satan.

- i.** New Christians are favorite targets of Satan’s bruising. This is why it is not enough to just get someone to say a prayer. We must actively disciple new believers to walk them through the process of healing and maturing into the faith. If we don’t disciple them, it is like we are making lamb chops for the devil to devour. If you refuse discipleship, you will be devoured!
- ii.** Out of fellowship Christians are favorite targets of Satan’s bruising. There is strength and protection in numbers. Why so many Christians believe it is not necessary to remain in fellowship, is hard for me to understand. The Apostle Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, very clearly instructs, (Hebrews 10:23-25), “²³ Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” I am amazed at what Christians will do for a Black Friday sale yet do not have the presence of mind nor will to attend the fellowship of the saints.
- iii.** Christians who do not study the Word of God are favorite targets of Satan’s bruising. I know that many people can quote book, chapter and verse, but that is not necessarily what I am talking about. People often repeat verses, in context or not, because it satisfies a selfish ambition or want. Studying the Word places the student in subjection to the Word, which then becomes our standing in the place of spiritual battle.

If you have not studied the Word when you are tempted, as Jesus was in the wilderness, you will be bruised because you won't have the standing by which to say, "It is written..."

- iv. Christians that have been around long enough that they think they can't be bruised are favorite targets of Satan's bruising. 1 Corinthians 10:12 "let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."

3. The bondage of hurts.

a. Bruises bind.

- i. If you allow a bruise to go unhealed it will bind you to the one who hurt, you. It will rob you of freedom and happiness. You will fixate on the event and continue to relive it, over and over again.
- ii. When you allow this to continue, the hurt of the bruise, will bind you to bitterness.
- iii. Ultimately, bitterness will cause you to be bound to a loveless life. You will develop a difficulty to give or receive love.
- iv. In this, we see that sin is not always the way in which Satan occupies a place in our lives. He can and will set up his shop in our lives through the pain of bruising. Often, we maintain an outward appearance as Christians. We know what we are supposed to look like. So, we do our best to conform to it. We begin to live out a tradition of religion and the problem is that we nullify the power of God's Word (Mark 7:13). We may desperately want to be the façade that we project, but we know that we aren't.
- v. We look at others that we believe to be strong and one day they just walk away and return to the folly of their foolishness like a dog returns to eat his own vomit (Proverbs 26:11). Why? The bruises of Satan. They are bound by bruising, to the one who hurt them or to the situation; they become bitter, they walk a loveless walk and finally cannot keep the façade up and return to whence they came.
- vi. For ourselves and for those that we deal with we should remember that sin isn't always the way which Satan gains influence into the life of an individual. Sometimes we focus on driving the sin out when we should focus on the healing power of God's love. When the wounds are healed the binding to the unhealthy, the sinful will be broken. The yoke of sin is destroyed, and the yoke of God can be received!

b. Jesus came to set free those who are bruised.

- i. Jesus wants you to be free. Jesus wants you to minister freedom to those who are bound. He proclaimed that “whom the Son sets free is free indeed” (John 8:36). The truest freedom comes when you allow Jesus to break the inner bounds: the hurts, pains, fears, rejections, losses that bind your soul and prohibit you from experiencing the joy of His salvation.
- ii. Until the inner person, the soul: the mind, the will and especially the emotions are loosed the weight of the past will beset you in the present. In Hebrew chapter 11, we have what is often called the Hall of Faith. A great recounting of the faithful. However, many only read the first part of the chapter. But verse 35 goes from “Women received their dead raised to life again.” to “Others were tortured...” all in the same breath. The following verses go on to describe the suffering of the faithful. They were mocked, scourged, chained, imprisoned, stoned, sawed in two, tempted, slain with the sword, wandered, destitute, afflicted, and tormented. How could this be a life of faith? Because while some of the believers suffered in this life, they did not allow even the most horrible of Satan’s blows to bruise them. They endured, that they might obtain a better resurrection, they obtained a good testimony through faith. Read Hebrews chapter 11. Then chapter 12 opens, “¹Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 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 has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Satan wants to weigh you down with the bruises of life so that he can bind you and ensnare you with sin.
- iii. Jesus the Head of the Body desires to be Healer of the Body. The men and women of old could remain unbruised and unbound by faith; you can be also.

4. Conclusion: The degree to which you are willing to identify, face, and replace the hurts of your past, with the truth of God concerning your present and your future, is the degree to which you can receive inner healing and possess the land of your emotions. The degree to which you will purposefully possess the land of your emotions is the degree to which you will have freedom to minister healing to the hurting.

For far too long you have allowed your bruised emotions to rule you. Your soul man bruised, and wounded has determined your day to day life. Your unpossessed emotions are an evil task master and likely the domain of demonic influence. Passivity is not an option. Humanistic thought will encourage you to allow your emotions to drive you from one hurtful circumstance to the next. Renew your mind by the Word of God. Bring every thought into submission to the authority of Christ and you will be moving towards reigning in your soul man and allowing your regenerated spirit man to govern a healed and whole life; by His stripes you were healed (1 Peter 2:24).

(Isaiah 53:5) ⁵ But He was wounded for [my] transgressions, He was bruised for [my] iniquities; the chastisement for [my] peace was upon Him, and by His stripes [I am] healed.

You are NOT ill-equipped for this battle. Remember that your weapons are mighty through God, to pull down strongholds! The Name of Jesus is Your Authority! His Word is Your Standing! His Faith is Your Victory! His Blood is Your Covering! His Spirit is Your Strength! Take up your weapons, keep your armor on and stand firm! Whom the Son sets free, is free indeed! Wholeness and freedom is your born again birth right!

THE BRUISES OF SATAN

The Emotions along with the Will and Mind comprise the Soul of a man. The Soul is the self-conscious part of man. The soul includes: The Will, the Mind and the Emotions. The soul is the seat of man's personality. The very elements that make us human: intellect, thoughts, ideals, love, emotion, choice, etc. are all various experiences of the soul. Emotions are our likes and dislikes; our ability to show love or hate, to feel joy or anger, happiness or sadness, etc. Without this ability, we would be insensitive and lifeless. It is within the soul of man, that the Land of the Emotions exists and make no doubt about it the emotions are a battleground for the work of the enemy.

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<u>Event</u>	<u>Emotional Hurt</u>	<u>Resultant Pattern</u>
My parents said I would never do anything good.	I felt rejected and unloved.	I continue in a pattern of failure because I am bound to my parents' words.