



“It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply.”

— A.W. Tozer

Outline and quotes from *Dangerous Prayers: Because Following Jesus Was Never Meant to Be Safe* by Craig Groeshel (Zondervan, 2020) *Recommended reading!*



“To be wholly useful to God, we have to be empty of self.”

— Craig Groeshel

BREAK ME

Read Mark 14:3-9

Mediate on the value of the perfume, *a year’s wages*.

“Think about that. How much do you make in a year? Now imagine, in one moment, with one single display of worship, giving that whole amount to Jesus. That is what this woman did. She broke the bottle and gave it all.” (p. 77)

How does your heart respond? Where are you on the spectrum?



Why?

“At that time, perfume was so rare that everyday women never thought of buying or wearing perfume. It simply wasn’t feasible. It cost way too much. So who would be willing to drop the big bucks for fragrance? Women like this one. Some theologians believe the only women who wore perfume were ‘the women of the streets.’ The fragrance was a form of advertising. Those who wore perfume were sending a bold and fragrant message, ‘I’m available . . . for a price.’

So, when this woman broke open the bottle and poured out the valuable cologne, she wasn’t just parting with the money she had earned. She was parting with her past, her profession, her livelihood. The perfume not only represented the work she used to do; it also represented what she could use to stir up future ‘business.’ When she broke the bottle, she burned her bridges. No going back. She poured out all the perfume on Jesus, symbolizing that she would give him all of her life.” (p. 78-79)

Do these words describe you: *Released... Surrendered?*

What would it take for you to say:

Jesus, here’s my life.

It’s all yours.

I’m holding nothing back.

“Lord, you can have it all.”

Read Mark 14:22-26

Luke adds *“Do this in remembrance of Me.” (Luke 22:19)* A way to remember, honor and celebrate His death and resurrection. Remembering the price Jesus paid for our forgiveness.

“But some scholars believe, and I agree, that Jesus’ instruction to “do this” included more than a simple and short act, or ritual, involving bread and wine. Some believe that Jesus’ “do this” also refers to how we are to live. We don’t just remember Jesus during Holy Communion at church; we remember him in how we live our lives daily. Because Jesus’ body was broken, because his blood was poured out for us, we too should live daily for him, broken and poured out.” (p. 83)

*“Jesus isn’t inviting us to a life of comfort and ease, but one of surrender and sacrifice. Our highest desire shouldn’t be for our will to be done, but for his will to be done. And Jesus is inviting us to die to our own lives, so we can live moment by moment, day by day—for him. To leave our cozy living rooms and safe prayers in order to know what it means to be broken for the sake of others.” **Matthew 16:24-25***

“What if when Jesus said, “do this,” he wasn’t just talking about a ritual that we do occasionally at church? What if he was also inviting us to be broken and poured out daily? What if he was inviting us to a life of humility, sacrifice, generosity, and joy? What if, instead of praying, “God watch over me, protect me, and bless me,” we invited God to do something deeper in our lives?” (p. 85)

What if we had the courage, the audacity, the faith to pray, “God, break me”? What if we too lived broken and poured-out lives for Christ?” (p. 86)

Will you pray, “God, do whatever it takes to free me from my love for this world. To crucify my love of comfort. God, break me.”

Write your prayer in your own words:

God uses those who are broken and dependent on Him. (p. 100)

“True brokenness before God isn’t a one-time event; it’s a daily decision. Paul said, “I die daily” (1 Cor. 15: 31 NKJV). What does that mean? Every day, he chose to crucify his own desires so he could live fully for God’s. True brokenness before God isn’t a one-time event; it’s a daily decision.

We are each called to die daily. To be broken and poured out. To become dependent on God’s Spirit. To rely on him for our comfort, our guidance, our source of power.

Being broken isn’t just a moment in time born out of a painful event. It’s a daily choice to die to pride. To crucify lust. To destroy selfishness. Rather than living a life of ease, it’s a choice to live a life of faith.”

“If you don’t want to pray this dangerous prayer, then don’t. Many people wouldn’t blame you. I sure won’t. But if you have the courage to pray it, get ready. Get ready to know God, and be known by God, in a way you’ve not experienced before.” (p. 102)

“Lord, break me.”



Record your thoughts as you pray through the five prompts:

- **Denominee Process and Future Team** — *Seeking His future for Ohio Baptists*

- **Church Revitalization** — *Seeking His plan for the church*

- **Church Planting** — *Seeking His places for church plants*

- **Pastors and Leaders** — *Seeking His favor for pastors, leaders, and their families*

- **Awakening** — *Seeking supernatural gospel impact in Ohio and beyond*

As you have opportunity, please share with others who are praying.