

## Damaged Goods

Hebrews 4:15-16 - <sup>15</sup> For ***we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses***, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. <sup>16</sup> ***Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence***, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

The writer of Hebrews tells us explicitly that **our High Priest is not one who cannot** feel **sympathy for our weaknesses**.

On the contrary, **we have a High Priest who** was **tempted in every way that we are but did not sin**.

- Because of this, **we should have confidence** to approach God's throne, **where there is grace!**
- It is there that **we will receive mercy and find grace** to help us just **when we need it**.
- **We have a Savior** – a High Priest – who has **been there and done that**, and He has the **T-shirt to prove it!**

**We were born with a defect** that we will have to contend with throughout this lifetime. **We were born in sin and shaped in iniquity**. **We are Damaged Goods.**

- **Jesus** – who **became sin** that we might **overcome sin** – **paid full price for us**.
- **He purchased us** – limbs and all – with **the price of His life!**

**Philippians 2:7-8** - <sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

**Hebrews 5:2** - He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since **he himself is subject to weakness**.

- **Jesus**, our High Priest, is **he himself is subject to weakness**.
- It is feeling it **by reason of a common experience with human beings**.
- In other words, **Jesus not only has knowledge about our weaknesses** -
- He also has **a common experience with us in our weaknesses!**

**Another way of saying it** is that Jesus does not have “Sympathy,” but EMPATHY with us.

- He has had **the same** experience as us!
- So, He is having “**COMPASSION**” on us!

Jesus has **COMPASSION** on us because he **KNOWS** what we are struggling with.

**Isaiah 53:4-5** - <sup>4</sup> Surely, he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

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**The Adulterous Woman** - In **John chapter 8**, we read the story of a woman who falls into the category of **Damaged Goods**.

**John 8:3-5** - <sup>3</sup> The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman **caught in adultery**. They made her stand before the group <sup>4</sup> and said to Jesus, “Teacher, **this woman was caught in the act of adultery**. <sup>5</sup> In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. **Now what do you say?**”

**Nobody** would have anything to do with her because her character was flawed.

- She was an adulteress!
- She **involved** herself in illicit relationships!
- She was a reproach!

Those who brought her to Jesus wanted Him to sentence her to die.

- **THEY** wanted to be the ones to carry out the sentence.
- She was **Damaged Goods**.

Her status as **Damaged Goods** made her an excellent candidate for **GRACE!**

**Romans 5:20** - The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more.

*I am preaching to somebody today who has found themselves in the trap of sin and you feel as though you cannot get out.*

**You're Damaged Goods**

- **Religion** is against you.
- Perhaps **your family** is standing against you.
- **Jesus is telling you** – “I’ve been in your shoes, and **I know how you feel!**

**But where sin abounds, GRACE does much more abound!”**

**Remember** when **this woman’s accusers came to Jesus** with her –

- **Jesus** just turned and **began writing in the sand.**
- There is **much speculation** as to **what Jesus wrote** in the sand that day.
- **WHAT he wrote isn’t as important as the message He was sending.**
- We have here **a picture of the Creator putting his finger into the dirt** He had created.

**I submit to you** that since **He created man out of the dust** of the earth, ***Jesus was just showing this adulterous woman that He doesn’t mind touching His creation.***

- **Jesus is willing to get His hands dirty!**
- **The Creator wants to touch** His creation **to bring forgiveness and healing!**
- And **He wants to touch you today.**

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**Mephibosheth** - In Second Samuel, we read the story of ***A young man who was born into a royal family. He was the son of a prince (Jonathon) and the grandson of a king. (Saul)***

- His name was **Mephibosheth.**

We pick-up the story in **I Samuel 31**. For years, **King Saul had pursued David**, the young man **whom God anointed** to replace him as king. **Saul’s obsession with hunting David down** left Israel’s enemies unchallenged; and when they realized that **Saul was preoccupied with capturing and killing David,** they amassed their armies to rise up against Israel.

On Mount Gilboa, ***King Saul, and his son, Jonathan, fought to the death*** as the Philistine routed **Israel’s overmatched and underequipped army.** For a brief time, Saul’s son, Ishbosheth had ruled part of Israel, but David’s mighty warrior, Joab, had first killed Ishbosheth’s general, Abner, and then Joab’s men had murdered Ishbosheth.

***Fleeing before Joab's mighty men***, all those loyal to Saul who sought to escape were slaughtered. **All died by the sword, except one child named Mephibosheth, which means "shameful one."** During the confusion and panic of fleeing from Joab's men, ***Young Mephibosheth's nurse dropped him – Damaged Goods!***

***The nurse managed to escape with Mephibosheth*** to Lo-debar, across the Jordan, but **the fall permanently crippled the child**. Even though he was **Jonathan's son**, and the **grandson of King Saul**, ***Mephibosheth was destined to grow up in obscurity*** – crippled physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

- A sentence of **living death** had been pronounced over Mephibosheth.

**Mephibosheth** was the descendant of the anointed one of Israel, yet **he exchanged the truth of his position for the lie of his circumstance**.

***He had come to believe that his present life had to be chained to past failures and tragedies***

He was living in Lo-debar, *the name of which means, "dry and barren."*

- ***Lo-debar was the dwelling place of*** lack, poverty, dryness, and desolation.
- **It was the** wilderness, desert, and empty field of no sowing and no harvest.
- **Nothing** was there!

***Lo-debar was never intended to be a destination or a dwelling place, but it had become Mephibosheth's prison of emptiness and isolation***.

- It was **not a life**, but **a living death**.

**The only way out of Lo-debar for Mephibosheth** required that a prior promise be remembered, and **a cherished covenant** be fulfilled.

**David sent the invitation** through Ziba, but **Mephibosheth had to move** from Lo-debar to the palace in order to claim his blessing. ***And so do we!***

He had been wounded, maimed by **one who loved him** and **who had the responsibility to care for him**.

***Perhaps you know just how he felt*** because you've been wounded by someone who was supposed to care for you and prevent your injury.

***The King has sent me to tell you that there is a place for you in the palace!***  
**Mephibosheth had spent a lifetime hiding out in darkness, existing in fear, deception, nothingness, intimidation, and poverty. But royalty came to him. The covenant of promise **outlasted his hopelessness!****

- You **don't** have to **hide in fear** any longer.
- **The King of kings has sent for you** and desires for you to dine at His table!

***When Mephibosheth came back*** to the palace of his childhood, ***he sat at the king's table, ate a king's meal***; but the best part is that his paralyzed legs were covered under that table!

- To the world, he was **Damaged Goods**; but to the king, he was a **Candidate for GRACE!**

**Listen to Pastor -**

**You may come to the Lord's table as a wounded and maimed life, but once you sit down at His table, your lameness is covered, and you become just like everybody else!**

***Perhaps you've come today with the opinion that you're Damaged Goods, but I've come to tell you that you're just a Candidate for GRACE!***

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**Simon Peter** - Simon Peter ***denied knowing Jesus*** and cussed the young lady out who had fingered him as ***a companion of Christ***.

But **GRACE** had already been activated on his behalf.

- **Jesus had told Peter** that he would do just what he did; but **Jesus also told Peter** He had prayed for him ***"that Satan would not sift him as wheat."***

***After Jesus was resurrected*** from the dead, he ***met Mary at the tomb*** and told her, ***"Go tell my disciples and Peter" that I am alive.***

- **He made a point to have her tell Peter personally that He was calling for him.**

***Before Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, Peter was Damaged Goods.***

***Afterward, he was a candidate for divine grace!***

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Close:

The Prodigal Son – Biblical meaning of Prodigal a wayward person who squanders their inheritance but returns home to find that his father forgives him.

Three lessons from the prodigal son:

- This reveals that sin is always against God, while it may also be against other people.
- The prodigal son fully admitted both. That's repentance!
- It opens the way to our third lesson:
- You can Never out-sin God's forgiveness.
  
- The Father watched every day for his return...
- The Father fell on him...

When a store receives Damaged Goods, they cannot put them on the shelves to be sold.

Instead, they must box them up and send them back to the Manufacture!

If you are here today and you are Damaged Goods, you are in the Manufacture's house!

You are where you need to be!

And He has sent me to tell you that He'll take you back!