

# HEALING THE BROKENHEARTED AND LOVING WHAT HE LOVES

## THE IMPACT OF A HEALED HEART

Not long ago at a teaching facility in the Midwest, the presence of God fell on a classroom of college students. Twelve hours later, no one had left the room because of what God was doing. Report after report came from the individuals touched by God in a profound way. And do you know what God was healing them of? Self-hatred. Guilt. Shame. Wow! We have known that physical healings do not always change the heart of a person, but what unfathomable freedom can come if God heals a broken heart.

We see an example of this in Scripture in Luke 17:11-19 when Jesus healed the ten people with leprosy but only one “came back praising God in a loud voice” and thanking Him. In contrast to this, when Jesus spoke with the woman at the well in John 4:1-42, His prophetic words about the condition of her life and her heart resulted in a “heart change.” She *had* to tell others what had happened to her, as revealed in John 4:39, where it states that “many of the Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” Maybe, if you could experience the “heart change” offered by Jesus, you could truly respond by *loving what He loves—YOU.*

## TURNING THE PAGE FROM THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

We started our ministry with the first and greatest commandment being the center of everything we set out to accomplish. Our purpose for existing was to help others to love God with their whole heart...and therefore to remove anything in their hearts that hindered that from occurring—pain, hurt, betrayal, fear, wounds, walls. Somewhere in the midst of that time, Father God turned the page to the second commandment. (We believe He did that in order to continue to help us receive more of His love for us). Let us explain using a story of a young woman we counseled.

Janet dedicated her life to the Lord in her late teens and dreamed of evangelizing the world for Jesus. She is a worship leader and really, really loves God and is “sold out” for His purposes. Yet, when we asked her to describe how God sees her, she said she chooses not to think of His love for her or how He sees her. When she led worship, she just skipped doing those songs that spoke of her being His favorite, His beloved, or her being beautiful and precious to Him.

This is the type of story we started to hear again and again. We have heard statements like, “I really love God but I don’t feel He loves me.” “I’m disappointed with myself and I feel He, too, is disappointed with me.” “I know He loves others but I don’t sense His love for me.” “I feel He is distant and disinterested in me.” “I know in my head that He loves me, but I don’t feel it in my heart.” “I don’t feel His love, and actually, I don’t feel much of anything.” These types of statements are only a few of many that have come our way, and we know that the Father grieves over these and desires to help us to love what He loves.

## HOW GOOD IS THE GOOD NEWS?

I (Denise) only remember one sermon when I was growing up. I was 7 years old and I was sitting in the pew doing the usual things to stay quiet and out of trouble (like polishing my patent leather shoes with a hankie). A young Catholic priest from the Jesus movement was giving the message at our church. I remember him emphatically saying, “Jesus loves you.” Huh? (I was interrupted in my shoe polishing). What was that? Jesus loves me? With all the rules and shoulds and oughts I was working on to be good, and stay out of trouble and avoid punishment, that thought had never crossed my mind.

Today, our entire lives and ministry are wrapped up in that one sentence--“*Jesus loves you*”—and once again it is profoundly GOOD NEWS. It is good news that God desires to heal our self-hatred, self-condemnation, self-contempt, self-deprecation and our negative self-talk. When we come into agreement with who the Father says we are—and when we are able to *love ourselves the way He loves us*—we also become more able to trust Him and trust His very heart.

#### PRAYER

Please pray with us . . . Father, sometimes I lose sight of the simplicity of the words that I so need to hear and take deep within—that You love me and that is why You sent your Son. Please take this GOOD NEWS deeper into my heart and reveal anything within that hinders me from living from this place—loving You, loving myself, and sharing this Good News with others.

From the Father's Heart,

Jerry and Denise Basel