



## God Blesses Broken Things

Margaret Hiscock, Toronto, Ontario

**W**hile in Mexico last year, we stopped one afternoon in the beautiful, colonial city of Taxco, famous for its silver. After driving up a narrow winding street, we reached the “city square” consisting of statues, greenery, walkways and benches. From there, more narrow streets fanned out in all directions, with almost every store offering the most beautiful silver objects imaginable. For a change, my two companions and I went into a book store, which also had a number of nativity sets on display. Curious to know how much they cost, I priced several by looking on the bottom of the crèche piece. As I picked one up and turned it over to see the price tag, to my horror the baby Jesus figure was not attached and fell on the hard tiled floor and broke into

three pieces. I was soon the owner of another nativity set and minus twenty US dollars!

I knew instinctively that this incident would carry deeper meaning than a piece of broken ceramic. The body of Jesus was in reality wounded, bruised and broken for us. (Isaiah 53:5) His suffering and death was the cost of our salvation so that our broken relationship with God could be restored.

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In thinking of this I was reminded of an article by the late General Albert Orsborn that I had read many years ago entitled “God Blesses Broken Things”.

This is evident in Scripture:

### **Genesis 32: 24–32**

Jacob by nature was a deceiver and a schemer. He would go to any lengths to get his own way. But a time came when God confronted him and after wrestling all night to the point of having his hip out of joint so that he was left with a limp, Jacob surrendered. He finally handed over total control of his life to God. It was only after that “breaking”, that God



could bless him. With the blessing Jacob also received a new name, and went on to fulfill God’s plan and purpose in his life and in the nation of Israel. *(This breaking speaks of surrender.)*

### **Matthew 14:15–21**

The gospels record several occasions where Jesus took bread, broke it and then blessed it before giving it to people to eat. Matthew told how Jesus was speaking to great crowds of people who had come to hear Him. When evening came they were hungry and far from their villages, so Jesus instructed His disciples to give them something to eat. All they had available were five loaves and two fish. As inadequate as it seemed, we read that “Taking the five loaves and two fish and looking up to heaven, He gave thanks and broke the loaves.

Then He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.”

No matter how small or insignificant the offering, when it is given to the Master, when it is broken and blessed by Him, there is no end to what can be accomplished. As General Orsborn also wrote, “My life must be Christ’s broken bread . . . that other souls refreshed and fed, may share His life through mine.” *(This breaking speaks of service.)*

### **Mark 14: 3–9**

This Scripture describes the occasion when Jesus was in the home of Simon the leper and a woman came in with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume. It was customary at that time and in that culture to pour a few drops of perfume on a guest when he arrived

at a house, or when he sat down to a meal. But this woman broke the jar and anointed Jesus with the whole contents! Nothing was held back. This costly gesture of total devotion and love pleased Jesus so much He commended her and described what she had done as a “beautiful thing”. *(This breaking speaks of sacrifice)*

### **Psalms 51:16–17**

“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.” These words of the Psalmist remind us that there is nothing we can do or give to God that would please Him more than a heart that is humble and broken before Him . . . broken by surrender to His plan and purpose, broken to serve others and broken to love sacrificially.