

Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is that she is a sinner." Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said. "Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said. Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little." Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."
Luke 7:36-50

Story of Pain

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart,
O God, you will not despise.
Psalms 51:17

The Path of Pain

When something breaks it fails to function according to its intended purpose

When people break:

We not only fail to function according to our intended purpose
But we also experience pain; it hurts

This is true physically, emotionally, spiritually
There two major truths that we all know inside us...

1. There's not something "right" in my world...

+God's most outstanding character -- relational

+People's most outstanding character -- relational (not good that man be alone)

+The quality of God's ability to relate: perfect
Ours? Degrees. Perfect? None.

God has created us in His image (relational) with an insatiable desire for intimacy (to know and be known in a fullest sense) which is never achieved (love chapter: look thru a glass darkly). We know something is not right, I am broken,

And...

2. Something, I'm not sure what, hurts inside...

We spend a lot of time and a lot of energy and a lot of resources finding the solution to our unease.

-each of us in this room has our sedative of choice

We actually go through a journey of the realisation of pain:

-it doesn't even exist, not me

-try the happy answer

-face the "curse" issue (that is, I just got to get thru)

-find blessing in the pain, discover a depth in the journey of pain

This is the journey we are on pain

You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.

Psalms 80:5

What will be discovering in our Path of Pain

- A lot of our behaviour (what we do, even think) is connected with our pain
- We will know God as he wants us to know Him as we choose the path of pain... (how?)
- We are in for a revolution of our thinking and our relating. We will give up a theology of will (obedience) for a theology of pain (brokenness).
- If we take this message seriously, new doors of opportunity will open for us in NationsHeart.