

## **THE MOSAIC OF GOD'S KINGDOM**

The story of the Good Samaritan is one of the most familiar parables in the Bible. We've heard it countless times—perhaps so often that we think we already know what it's telling us. But today, I want us to see it afresh.

What if this parable isn't just about being kind to others? What if it's about the brokenness of the world and how God pieces us together into something greater?

The world we live in is fractured. We see divisions—between rich and poor, between races, between those who are seen as successful and those who are struggling. There are people cast aside because of disability, mental health struggles, or poverty. And often, we see them as broken. Society labels them as less than, just as the priest and Levite walked past the injured person, perhaps assuming they were beyond help.

But who does God see as broken? One thing is very clear, it is not the ones society rejects.

Jesus flips our assumptions upside down. The one who is seen as ‘other’—the Samaritan—is the one who brings healing.

Our reading from challenges us in a similar way. James warns us against showing favouritism—against giving the best seat to the wealthy while ignoring the poor. James reminds us that God's kingdom does not operate like the world. The poor, the overlooked, and the marginalized are the ones God honours.

James asks us: Do we judge people by their outward appearance? Do we walk past those in need while honouring those with influence? Because if we do, we are missing the very heart of the Gospel. The priest and Levite in the Good Samaritan story showed favouritism by choosing to ignore the suffering man. The

Samaritan, the outsider, saw differently—they saw through God’s eyes.

This is where the mosaic theme comes in. A mosaic is made up of shattered pieces. It is not one unbroken, flawless image; it is something that has been broken and then made whole again. The church is meant to be a mosaic—a place where the rejected, the hurting, and the unseen find a home. A place where the Samaritan and the wounded man don’t just cross paths but become part of the same beautiful whole.

This isn’t just an idea; it is something we see throughout Scripture. Again and again, Jesus encounters those who are broken—physically, emotionally, and spiritually—and he makes them whole. Think of the woman who had been bleeding for twelve years. Society had cast her aside, deemed her untouchable. But when she

reached out to touch Jesus' cloak, he didn't just heal her body—he restored her dignity, her place in the community, her wholeness.

Or consider Zacchaeus, the tax collector. He wasn't physically broken, but he was isolated, despised, lost in a system of greed and corruption. And yet, when Jesus called him down from the tree and went to his house, something in Zacchaeus was made whole again. He repaid what he had stolen, he changed his ways—he became part of something greater.

Jesus doesn't just heal individuals; Jesus restores relationships. Jesus puts the pieces back together, creating something beautiful. Jesus does not discard what is broken but redeems it.

## **Bur How Does God Do This?**

God does not work in neat, perfect ways. God works in the messiness, in the broken pieces of our world. If you have ever seen a mosaic being made, you'll know that at first, it looks like chaos—shattered fragments scattered across a table. But in the hands of an artist, those pieces begin to take shape, and what was once broken becomes something beautiful.

Where do we see this in our world today? Who are the unexpected Samaritans in our world? Perhaps it's the refugee who helps a local community rebuild after disaster. Perhaps it's the person struggling with their own mental health who becomes an advocate for others. Maybe it's those living in poverty who share what little they have with others in need. The ones we assume are 'broken' are the ones God is working through.

And we shouldn't be surprised by this, because this is how God works. We see it in the

resurrection itself. The cross was meant to be the ultimate symbol of brokenness, of defeat. Jesus' body was broken, his followers scattered in despair. And yet, out of that brokenness came the greatest restoration of all—new life, a new kingdom, hope for all of us.

So where does this leave us? We are called to be part of this mosaic. To gather the pieces, to welcome the overlooked, to see the beauty in what the world deems broken. The church is not meant to be a gallery of perfect pictures—it is a mosaic of grace, where every piece, no matter how shattered, belongs.

And this is not just theoretical. It is something we are called to live out.

So, week 2 of our Lenten journey asks us...

Where do we see brokenness in our own communities? Who are the people being walked past, as the priest and Levite walked

past the injured man? And how can we, like the Samaritan, step in?

James calls us to be a people of action, not just of words. It is not enough to say we follow Christ if we continue to judge people by the world's standards. We must actively welcome the stranger, lift up the poor, and see the image of God in those who are overlooked.

Maybe the brokenness we are called to restore is the loneliness of an elderly neighbour. Maybe it's the child who struggles at school and feels like they don't belong. Maybe it's the refugee family who arrives in our town with nothing and is looking for kindness. Maybe it's the single parent who is struggling to get by. Maybe it's the person experiencing homelessness, who is overlooked every day.

Or maybe, if we are honest, it is us. Maybe we feel like the broken pieces, uncertain of where we fit.

But here is the good news: God does not discard broken things. God redeems them.

So, as we leave today, let's ask ourselves:

Where are we seeing brokenness?

How is God asking us to help piece it back together?

And how might we allow ourselves to be gathered into the beautiful mosaic of God's kingdom?

Amen.