

# A Theology of Garbage

Things that we might cast off or throw away are the very things that God uses to build the Kingdom of God. We might discard or denigrate things such as our weaknesses, wounds, and failures, even sins, but God redeems, reuses, and recycles these to transform our lives and build the Kingdom of God.

## Weaknesses

2 Corinthians 12:5 ...but on my own behalf I will not boast except to boast of my weaknesses. v. 8 Three times I appealed to the Lord about this [thorn in his flesh], that it would leave me. But he said to me, "My \_\_\_\_\_ is sufficient for you, my power is made perfect in \_\_\_\_\_."

V 10. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong."

## Wounds

In the rabbi's story of the Messiah at the city gates, the Messiah unbinds his \_\_\_\_\_ and makes the available for the healing of others one at a time.

Isaiah 53:4-6

John 20:26-29. Thomas did not believe that Jesus had been raised from the dead. But when he saw the \_\_\_\_\_ in hands and touched the \_\_\_\_\_ in his side, he exclaimed my Lord and my God!

There is a power in wounds that Jesus made available through his own suffering for our sake, and it is a power that Christ still makes available to us and to others through the healing our own wounds.

## Failure

Exodus 2:11-15. When Moses first saw the injustice of the Hebrews in slavery, He \_\_\_\_\_ an Egyptian, then Moses fled in failure into the desert in Midian. But, in spite of failure, God used Moses to deliver the people from bondage.

Acts 15:37-41. Mark's first missionary trip with Paul ended in \_\_\_\_\_ when Mark abandoned Paul. But God used Mark anyway, 2 Timothy 4:11. Later Mark and Paul reconciled and Paul wrote that Mark was useful to him in ministry and called for Mark to come to him.

## Sin

Joseph's brothers sinned when they sold him into slavery. Years later when they were reunited in Egypt, Genesis 50:19, Joseph said to them, Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for \_\_\_\_\_, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today.

In spite of Peter's sin and numerous mistakes and denials, Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ Peter and three times, Jesus asked Peter to feed my \_\_\_\_\_.

God redeems, reuses and recycles our

1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_ and our 4) \_\_\_\_\_ as raw material to build God's Kingdom.

What other things might God redeem, reuse or recycle to build the Kingdom?

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What is there in your life that God could redeem, reuse or recycle?

What is there in our nation where God's power of redemption is needed? What action can you take to assist God?