



## break my heart for the things that break yours

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Way back in Royal Servants history, one of our worship songs contained that very phrase, “Break my heart for the things that break Yours...” I have always thought it was a beautiful sentiment, but an incredibly brave prayer. And yet, so often that is what happens over the course of a Royal Servants summer. As we are exposed to the ways God is moving and ministering globally, we gain eyes that see differently, ears that hear differently, and hearts that feel differently. The curtain of humanity is pulled back a little bit more and we see, perhaps for the first time and up close, the effects of injustice, the empty promises of life without Christ, or the reality that things are just not the way they are supposed to be. Our hearts become that much more aware of what is possible in the Kingdom of God and thus that much more heartbroken when that life isn’t being lived out, not just in our own lives, but in the lives of those around us as well. And this is exactly what makes this a brave prayer to pray.

There is so much to be broken hearted about that it can quickly become overwhelming. When we see the needs and pain around us, when we see people the way Jesus did (the outcast, overlooked, the given-up-on, or otherwise-hopeless underdog as beautifully precious and worth every investment), we can easily be overcome with the enormity of the task, which leads to hopelessness, cynicism, or paralyzing guilt. So what do we do? Let our heart calcify and become hardened, or live with an open flesh wound?

### read

2 Kings 6:1-23

2 Corinthians 1:1-11

### reflect & journal

1. While this passage from 2 Kings is not directly applicable to current day, there is something powerful about Elisha’s prayer, “Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.” How did God answer this prayer in this story? How did this reveal a greater reality to Elisha’s servant than he had realized before?
2. So assuming you are actually brave enough to pray that God would break your heart for the things that break His, if you also pray that God would open your eyes so you may see, how might seeing a greater reality around you help overcome the heartache?
3. What does the 2 Corinthians passage reveal about Paul and Timothy’s context? What kind of troubles and pressure were they facing? What does Paul mean in verse 3 when he praises God as the “Father of compassion” and the “God of all comfort”?
4. If our God comforts us in all our affliction so we can comfort others, how does this help us to be brave? What are the areas in your day to day life that God is breaking your heart for? Are there areas of heartbroken-ness that you avoid facing because you are afraid it will hurt too much, require too much, or you just don’t know what to do?

### pray

- How can you be praying for God to continue breaking your heart for the things that break His or for the courage needed to even pray that prayer in the first place?
- How can you then also pray that God would open your eyes so that you can see the many resources and things He is already bringing to pass?
- How might these things help motivate you to step into action with Him, not giving into apathy or hopelessness, but instead trusting in the redemptive work of God?