

Better healed than bruised

We switch on the TV and see good sports spoilt by bad behaviour. We hear at work about the manager who has been cheating the company, and the husband who has been deceiving his wife. We open the newspaper and read about the person knocked down by the drunk driver and the sadistic attacks on the aged and the young. We travel on trains and see what the vandals have left behind. These events come close to our own door and sadness enters even into our own homes. Our lives are spoilt by wrong actions. A short, simple word for all this is sin. Sin constantly spoils our lives.

One famous writer has described our spoilt lives as reeds on the river bank that have been bruised by the current of sin that swirls around us. Isaiah was a man who believed in God. He lived before Jesus but wrote of Him, "a bruised reed He will not break." A bruised reed is a plant that has been hurt or crushed. How bruises bring hurt into our lives; lives that are for many at times a journey through a dark tunnel of depression. Some find themselves trapped in a cage of anxiety, and many families are severed through marital and financial problems. We have all been hurt by others who are selfish. We have all faced bitter disappointments at some time or other. We have all been through shattering experiences when it felt as if nobody cared. Yet we can remember - when we are honest with ourselves - our own unkind remarks. We cannot always blame the other person. We cannot always rest on our own convenient excuses. We need to face up to those wrong actions, those sins.

When we do this and look in the mirror of our own life, God assures us that there is no life that is so bruised and injured that it cannot be healed.

"Come to me, all you, who are weary
and burdened, and I will give you rest."

"A bruised reed He will not break." Isaiah here also describes the Saviour, Jesus, as being kind, gentle and merciful. He does not want to condemn but pardon and heal us when we come to Him. Jesus' life was unique, full of healing, wisdom and truth and not spoilt by sin. Then He yielded His life on a cross at a place called Calvary. Peter, a disciple of Jesus, described His crucifixion: "He Himself bore our sins in his body on the tree." How amazing that the Son of God loved us and gave Himself for us, even though our lives are unlovely and spoilt by sin just like unattractive bruised reeds!

Accept this invitation to admit your sins and thank Jesus for dying for you. Take your step of faith - perhaps the first in your life - and speak to the God who is here and thank Him that His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, died for you. Your life, like a bruised reed on the river bank, can become strong, healed and ready for growth.

"But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed."