

References in the leaflet are from the Bible:

Isaiah chapter 42 verse 3

Isaiah chapter 53 verse 5

Matthew chapter 11 verse 28

1 Peter chapter 2 verse 24

BRUISED

For further help contact:



Hayes Press, The Barn, Swindon SN4 8DY
Tel: 0845 330 6745 e: info@hayespress.org
www.hayespress.org

1004

Brian Johnston

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's been cheating the company, the husband who's been deceiving his wife.

We open the newspaper and read about someone knocked down by a drunk driver and sadistic attacks on the old and the young. We travel on trains and see what vandals leave 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 described our spoilt lives as reeds on the river bank that have been bruised by the strong current of sin that swirls around us. Isaiah was a man who believed in God. He lived long before Jesus, but wrote about Him that, "a bruised reed He will not break."

Bruises are the hurts in our lives; lives that for many are a journey through a dark tunnel of depression. Some find themselves trapped in a cage of anxiety, and families are severed through marital and financial problems. We've all been hurt by others who are selfish. We've all faced bitter disappointments at some time or other. We've all been through shattering experiences when it felt as if nobody cared.

But - if we are honest with ourselves - we can remember our own unkind remarks. We can't always blame the other person. 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."

He does not want to condemn, but pardon us 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 gave up His life on a cross at a place called Calvary. Peter, a disciple of Jesus, described His crucifixion this way: "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!

Accept this invitation to take a step of faith and speak to God. Admit your sins and thank Him that His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, died for you. Then your life, like a 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."