

Mended

Matthew West

If you'd like to watch the video for this song: <https://youtu.be/-Otg-5p7qug>

When you see broken beyond repair, I see healing beyond belief.
When you see too far gone, I see one step away from home.

How many times can one heart break? It was never supposed to be this way.
Look in the mirror and you find someone you never thought you'd be.
Oh, but I can still recognize, the one I love in your tearstained eyes
I know you might not see him now, but lift your eyes to me.

Refrain:

When you see broken beyond repair, I see healing beyond belief.
When you see too far gone, I see one step away from home.
When you see nothing but damaged goods, I see something good in the making.
I'm not finished yet. When you see wounded, I see mended.

You see your worst mistake, but I see the price I paid:
that there's nothing you could ever do to change what grace has won.
So hold on, it's not the end, this is where love's work begins.
I'm making all things new, and I will make a miracle of you.

Refrain:

I see my child, my beloved, the new creation you're becoming.
You see the scars from when you fell, but I see the stories they will tell.
You see worthless, I see priceless. You see pain, but I see a purpose.
You see unworthy, undeserving, but I see you through eyes of mercy.

Refrain:

How many times can one heart break? It was never supposed to be this way.
Look in the mirror and you find someone you never thought you'd be.
Oh, but I can still recognize, the one I love in your tearstained eyes
I know you might not see him now, but lift your eyes to me.

Psalm 147:3-5 *"He heals the wounds of every shattered heart. He sets His stars in place, calling them all by their names. How great is our God! There's absolutely nothing His power cannot accomplish, and He has infinite understanding of everything."* The Passion Translation

Matthew 18:11-12 *"And I, the Messiah, came to save the lost. If a man has 100 sheep and one wanders away and is lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the 99 and go out to the hills to search for the lost one?"* The Living Bible

Have you ever looked in the mirror and found "someone you never thought you'd be"?
What caused you to feel that way?

Does the concept that God “has infinite understanding of everything” make it easier to understand the idea that you are recognized as someone loved? Why do you feel this way?

Had you ever considered yourself the lost sheep Jesus spoke about? Why? How does it feel to hear that Jesus will “go out to the hills to search for the lost one”?

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that there’s nothing you could ever do to change what grace has won.
So hold on, it’s not the end, this is where love’s work begins.
I’m making all things new, and I will make a miracle of you.

Romans 8:38-39 *“For I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from His love. Death can’t, and life can’t. The angels won’t, and all the powers of hell itself cannot keep God’s love away. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, or where we are – high above the sky, or in the deepest ocean – nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love of God demonstrated by our Lord Jesus Christ when He died for us.”* The Living Bible

John 9:1-9 *“Walking down the street, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked, ‘Rabbi, who sinned: this man or his parents, causing him to be born blind?’ Jesus said, ‘You’re asking the wrong question. You’re looking for someone to blame. There is no such cause-effect here. Look instead for what God can do. We need to be energetically at work for the One who sent me here, working while the sun shines. When night falls, the workday is over. For as long as I am in the world, there is plenty of light. I am the world’s Light.’ He said this and then spit in the dust, made a clay paste with the saliva, rubbed the paste on the blind man’s eyes, and said, ‘Go, wash at the Pool of Siloam’ (Siloam means ‘Sent’). The man went and washed—and saw. Soon the town was buzzing. His relatives and those who year after year had seen him as a blind man begging were saying, ‘Why, isn’t this the man we knew, who sat here and begged?’ Others said, ‘It’s him all right!’ But others objected, ‘It’s not the same man at all. It just looks like him.’ He said, ‘It’s me, the very one.’”* The Message

As humans, we so easily focus on our mistakes – the wrong steps, the omissions, the lies, the careless words, the failure to act. But God no longer does. John 13:17-18a says *“God didn’t go to all the trouble of sending His Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help put the world right again. Anyone who trusts Him is acquitted.”* (The Message) Paul reminded the Romans – and us – that we are never beyond God’s love. That Jesus’ sacrifice reaches on through the centuries to encompass us today. Can you release your mistakes?

Spend some time with that idea, and when you are ready, open your hands and release your past so that you are free to accept the grace we are offered through Jesus Christ.

I see my child, my beloved, the new creation you're becoming.
You see the scars from when you fell, but I see the stories they will tell.
You see worthless, I see priceless. You see pain, but I see a purpose.
You see unworthy, undeserving, but I see you through eyes of mercy.

1 Peter 2:21-25 *"This is the kind of life Christ lived. He suffered everything that came His way so you would know that it could be done, and also know how to do it, step-by-step. He never did one thing wrong, not once said anything amiss. They called Him every name in the book and He said nothing back. He suffered in silence, content to let God set things right. He used His servant body to carry our sins to the cross so we could be rid of sin, free to live the right way. His wounds became your healing. You were lost sheep with no idea who you were and where you were going. Now you're named and kept for good by the Shepherd of your souls."* The Message

Luke 7:36-38 *"Afterward Simeon, a Jewish religious leader, asked Jesus to his home for dinner. Jesus accepted the invitation. When He went to Simeon's home, He took His place at the table. In the neighborhood was an immoral woman of the streets, known to all to be a prostitute. When she heard that Jesus was at Simeon's house, she took an exquisite flask made from alabaster, filled it with the most expensive perfume, went right to the home of the Jewish religious leader, and in front of all the guests, she knelt down at the feet of Jesus. Broken and weeping, she covered His feet with the tears that fell from her face. She kept crying and drying His feet with her long hair. Over and over she kissed Jesus' feet. Then, as an act of worship she opened the flask and anointed His feet with her costly perfume."* The Passion Translation

There are physical scars, like those of Jesus, and there are emotional and psychological scars, like those of the woman who anointed Jesus; but all scars are signs of survival and growth. What stories do your scars tell?

How can your stories help others who feel undeserving and unworthy?

Romans 10:12-13 remind us *"Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But how shall they ask Him to save them unless they believe in Him. And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how will they hear about Him unless someone tells them?"* (The Living Bible) How can you use your scars, your stories, to tell others of Jesus' saving grace?

Take some time to consider this. Offer God your fears and concerns about speaking out, and ask for guidance and courage to follow Jesus' path.

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When you see nothing but damaged goods, I see something good in the making.

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Psalm 34:17-19 *"The Lord hears His people when they call to Him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; He rescues those whose spirits are crushed. The righteous person faces many troubles, but the Lord comes to the rescue each time."*

New Living Translation

Luke 13:10-13 “He was teaching in one of the meeting places on the Sabbath. There was a woman present, so twisted and bent over with arthritis that she couldn’t even look up. She had been afflicted with this for 18 years. When Jesus saw her, He called her over. ‘Woman, you’re free!’ He laid hands on her and suddenly she was standing straight and tall, giving glory to God.” The Message

2 Corinthians 7:10 “The sorrow which God uses means a change of heart and leads to salvation – it is the world’s sorrow that is such a deadly thing.” J.B. Phillips New Testament

This song reminds us that we are more than “damaged goods”, that our brokenness does not have to define us. Like the woman in Luke, we do not have to remain trapped. God uses our struggles and sorrows to help lead us to salvation.

Take some time and read over the song several times, or if you are able, listen to it several times. Hear Jesus as He speaks these words to you. Allow them to wash over you. Breathe them in. Allow them to seep into every inch of your body and mind, especially those places where you hold your fears, your brokenness, your feelings of unworthiness...

This is why Jesus came, this is why Jesus willingly died on the Cross – to reach you in your pain and to bring you grace and forgiveness.

“If one man’s (Adam’s) sin put crowds of people at the dead-end abyss of separation from God, just think what God’s gift poured through one man, Jesus Christ, will do! There’s no comparison between that death-dealing sin and this generous, life-giving gift. The verdict on that one sin was the death sentence; the verdict on the many sins that followed was this wonderful life sentence. If death got the upper hand through one man’s wrongdoing, can you imagine the breathtaking recovery life makes, absolute life, in those who grasp with both hands this wildly extravagant life-gift, this grand setting-everything-right, that the one man Jesus Christ provides?”

Romans 5:15b-17 The Message