

Do you know what it means to redeem? I know what it feels like to have no hope. I know how helpless I felt when my marriage was in trouble, and I know the feeling of being unwanted at family gatherings. But I know what redeem means because I've seen what God has done in my life. I've witnessed His restoration in my relationships. And He has ministered to my heart over and over through the prayers and encouragement of other believers. Verses like those from Isaiah 61 have brought hope to me.

I recently took a leisurely drive up and down the streets of Adrian and saw a lot of houses for sale. Downtown there were a lot of vacant buildings. Many parts of the city looked deserted and neglected. Unemployment in Lenawee County is still above the national average, and it has taken its toll on the area. Adrian is a city that looks like it needs to be restored . . . redeemed.

Sunday night we heard the heart of 1Mosaic leadership and several times I heard the words "minister" and "redeem." Their hearts have been burdened for our city and its people and they want to see it changed. Listen to what God says in Isaiah 61:1-4, 6. "The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. And you will be called priests of the LORD, you will be named ministers of our God."

Jesus spoke those words while teaching in the synagogue, and they are what breathed life into me when I was hurting. Jesus desires to continue rebuilding and restoring . . . broken hearts, broken lives, broken relationships, and broken cities. And He wants to use each one of us to do that in our community.

When I drove through Adrian, I felt overwhelmed; there's so much work to be done. But perhaps *The Starfish Story* by Loren Eiseley puts it in a better perspective for us: One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean. Approaching the boy, he asked, "What are you doing?" The youth replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die." "Son," the man said, "don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make a difference!" After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said, "I made a difference for that one."

## Questions to Consider:

The Greatest Commandment is “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37, 39) What would my communities and relationships look like if I really loved my neighbor as myself? If I loved God with all my heart and soul and mind, would I allow Him to use me to bless my community – even when it’s hard? Even when it’s awkward? Even when I don’t see any immediate changes?

Like the starfish story, am I willing to make a difference, even if it’s only for one person?

Am I willing to share my brokenness and flaws with others so that they can see my weaknesses and so that God can be glorified? Do I put on a façade of having my act all together, which can make me unapproachable?

Think of the word redeem. What does it mean to me? Can I thank God for a specific time when He redeemed me?

In what areas of my life do I need God’s redemption?

Do people hear me preach the Gospel? Do people see me live the Gospel?

What particular area of my community does my heart break for? Am I serving there? If so, how can I get others involved? If not, why not?

1Mosaic teaches “Love, Live, Lead.” What does that mean to me?

Kayla said, “Live simply so that others can simply live.” What does that mean for me and my lifestyle?

Do people see me “being the church?” What does that look like? Where is it most difficult to be the church? Where is it easiest?

Dan read from Acts 4:13: “When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.” When people look at me, what do they notice?

Why am I a part of 1Mosaic? (If you were unable to attend Sunday night, you need to listen to the podcast to hear why they are a part of 1Mosaic.)

**This month’s memory verse:** *“I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward everyone according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve.” (Jer 17:10 TNIV)*

## REMINDERS:

### **11.13 – The Gathering at the 5/6 BUILDING at 6pm!!! *“His Heart”***

Dan takes us on a journey back into the foundational scriptures that mosaic was birthed out of. They are the cry of Jesus’ heart & they need to be the cry of ours as well! Join us as we dive back into the basics.

**11.20 – The Gathering at the 5/6 BUILDING at 6pm!!! *“Your Heart”***

This week Scott VanEtten will be launching us into God’s Word, asking the question, “how do we get our heart to look more like the heart of Jesus?”

**11.27 – The Gathering at the 5/6 BUILDING at 6pm!!! *“The 18” Disconnect”***

So often as Christ followers we have a major disconnect between our head and our heart. Join us as Dan unpacks the process of reuniting the two with Jesus being the conduit of connection!

**\*\*This will also be our first *“4 the City”* event...stay tuned for more details!\*\***