A PLACE OF CHANGE MINISTRY

THE FULL MESSAGE

BROKEN REFLECTIONS

PASTOR TJ TYUS

September 12, 2026

Pastor TJ Tyus admits he struggled with Pastor Eric's word last week that we are winners. God's answer reframes winning entirely: it was never about getting what you want, and your brokenness was never disqualifying. It might be exactly where His glory shows up clearest.

THE ONE THING

WINNING WAS NEVER ABOUT GETTING WHAT YOU WANT, IT'S GOD'S WILL BEING FULFILLED IN YOU, AND YOUR BROKENNESS DOESN'T DISQUALIFY YOU FROM REFLECTING HIS GLORY. OFTEN IT'S EXACTLY WHERE THAT GLORY SHOWS UP CLEAREST.

Pastor TJ Tyus opens by naming his own struggle with Pastor Eric's declaration last week that the church are winners. If that's true, why doesn't it always feel true? In prayer, God corrected the formula. This week traces that correction through loss, fire, mirrors, and Peter's worst night.



From the deck - Broken Reflections

THE WRONG DEFINITION OF WINNING

Winning is greater than or equal to you getting what you want. If you don't get what you want, that doesn't mean you lost. It means God has something greater in mind, even when the greater is simply making you a better man, husband, father, or leader.

> **STOP ASKING WHY YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE A WINNER, AND START ASKING WHAT GREATER THING GOD IS BUILDING INSTEAD.**
>
> PASTOR TJ TYUS

EVERY LOSS WAS STILL A WIN

TJ traces that formula through his own life without softening it: a nephew's death, a false accusation and jail time that cost him football, a marriage that nearly ended, and the sermon's emotional center, losing his daughter to cancer. None of it felt like winning in the moment. All of it, he

says, was still inside God's greater.

THE GOLD AND THE FIRE

Using the image of a goldsmith refining gold until he can see his own reflection in it: you're praying for God to take you out of the fire. God put you in the fire on purpose, to burn off whatever is blocking His reflection in you.

YOU'RE NOT LOSING BECAUSE YOU'RE BURNING. YOU'RE WINNING BECAUSE YOU'RE BURNING.

PASTOR TJ TYUS

BROKEN THINGS STILL REFLECT

The Greek word for reflect, katoptrizomai, means to reflect like a mirror. A broken mirror doesn't stop reflecting light. It reflects it at more angles. TJ ties this directly to his daughter: she had cancer, but cancer didn't have her. She kept reflecting God's light to everyone she met, broken and all.

> But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.
>
> 2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

PETER'S COURTYARD DECISION

Jesus predicts His own death. Peter rebukes Him. Jesus calls him a stumbling block. Later, in the garden, Peter draws a sword to defend Jesus, then denies even knowing Him three times before the rooster crows. TJ's read: Peter had the right person but the wrong picture of who Jesus was supposed to be.

> But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.
>
> MATTHEW 16:23

THE M.E.A.N. FORMULA

Moment. What actually happened. Explanation. The meaning you attach to it. Affect. The emotion that meaning produces. Next move. The behavior that emotion causes. Peter's meaning, this can't be God's plan, produced resistance, which produced the sword, and later the denial.

YOU CAN'T CONTROL THE EVENT. YOU CAN CONTROL THE MEANING YOU GIVE IT.

PASTOR TJ TYUS

WHEN GOD LETS YOU DOWN

TJ names it directly instead of spiritualizing around it: real times God didn't do what he wanted, trained for, or prayed for, most of all his daughter's death after months of declaring her healing. He draws a hard, honest line between disappointment in an outcome and losing faith in God.

> **MAYBE GOD DIDN'T GIVE ME MY DAUGHTER FOR ME. MAYBE GOD GAVE ME TO MY DAUGHTER, FOR HER.**
>
> PASTOR TJ TYUS

DECISION, NOT CHOICE

A choice picks between options. A decision, from its root meaning to cut off, removes every other option. A choice makes Jesus Lord here, not here. A decision means no matter what: no matter what's taken from me, I'm still with Him.

DO NOT JUST READ IT

THIS WEEK'S ASSIGNMENT

MONDAY

Name the Moment

What's one specific event in your life you've never fully made peace with? Write down just what happened, not yet the meaning you've attached to it.

TUESDAY

Check the Meaning

What meaning did you attach to that moment, the story you've told yourself about why it happened? Is that meaning actually what God's word says about you, or is it your hurt talking?

WEDNESDAY

Follow the Effect

What emotion has that meaning been producing, and what has that emotion caused you to do? Avoid people? Hold a grudge? Stay guarded with God?

THURSDAY

Choice vs. Decision

Where in your life are you still making a choice, keeping an option open, instead of a decision that cuts it off? Name it plainly today.

FRIDAY

Reflect Anyway

Broken things still reflect. What's one way your specific brokenness, not your strength, could reach someone this week that a whole version of you couldn't?

A PLACE OF CHANGE MINISTRY

KEEP BUILDING.

Saturdays at 11:00am.

Notes, slides and the full transcript every week at apoc.kapturedpixel.com/message