

Tomorrow's church today

Part 2

Ezekiel 37:1-10 – The Valley of Dry Bones

¹ The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³ He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "Sovereign LORD, you alone know."

⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!' ⁵ This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶ I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'"

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸ I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'"¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

1. In what way is preparing for an event as important as the event itself?
2. How does our attitude impact on our enjoying or engaging with various things in our lives?
3. Is there a relationship between attitude and faith?
4. What kind of experience is Ezekiel having in chapter 37, why do you say this?
5. Why does God speak to Ezekiel in this way, what is the purpose?
6. What did Ezekiel find in the valley and what do you think the vision represented? [Ezekiel 37:1-2]
7. In Ezekiel 37:3, what question is God asking Ezekiel? Why? (Over ninety times Ezekiel is referred to as "Son of man" – which may be surprising because Jesus used that phrase Himself many times in the Gospels. In the book of Ezekiel, though, this phrase points to that prophet's mortality)
8. Once in the valley, what does God ask the prophet to do? [Ezekiel 37:4] (Prophesying and preaching are very similar things)
9. What happened once Ezekiel began to preach? [Ezekiel 37:7]
10. What is preaching supposed to achieve for the church?
11. What is the significance of the words "wind," "breath," and "spirit?" [Ezekiel 37:8-10]
12. In what ways can we encourage one another so that our faith might come alive?