

IN THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES

Ezekiel 37:1—14

*The hand of the LORD was upon me,
and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD
and set me down in the middle of the valley;
it was full of bones.*

Perhaps these were the bones of an army that had been trapped in this valley by hostile forces and had been slaughtered. The flesh had long ago fallen away. Now there was nothing left but a pile of bones baked by the sun. In Ezekiel's words, "they were very dry."

Amidst this scene of death, decay and destruction, the Lord asks Ezekiel a powerful question--a question that is important to your life and mine, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

A young man in a wheelchair, crippled by an accident, asks his friend, "Do I have a future?"

A couple sits in a counsellor's office, "Can our marriage be saved?"

A widow sinks into a chair. Only a few hours before they lowered into the ground the casket that contained her precious husband. "Can I go on?" she wonders as she softly cries.

A husband and father, reading through the job search, asks "how will I provide for my family?"

"Son of man, can these bones live?" Can that which is dead be returned to life? Can a situation that has been written off as hopeless be recouped, revived, or resurrected? Is there any hope?

Can these bones live again? Yes, there is hope even in the valley of dry bones. For God is a living God, a God who is faithful to his promises and is powerful enough to accomplish whatever he wills.

Listen as Ezekiel's vision moves toward a climax, *So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.*

But listen to the climax in verse 10, *So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.*

What an exciting piece of news for us. There is hope--in the Word, in Worship and through Prayer. With God's Spirit in our lives, even dry bones can live again.

Grace & Peace
Derek

Sunday Conference call:

To listen to our Sunday morning service live,
call 1-800-914-8405 followed by 4896244
YOU MUST MUTE YOUR PHONE

Family News & Notes

- Jack Ussery, Richard Fraley, Judy Sullivan, and Norma Payne are all recovering from surgery.
- Jessica Crowe is home recovering.
- Rick Murphy as he continues on IV antibiotics for several weeks.
- Donna Meadows will have cataract surgery **Thursday, April 12.**
- Ann Smith is recovering from a dislocated shoulder.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

HEALTH ISSUES: Joe Albritton, Herman Davis, Danny Jackson, Ken Joines, Misha Kimbell, Donna Meadows, Peggy McGowen, James Neal, Jerry Richardson, Jamie Vorhof, Linda Weatherford, Lula Whittle, Jeanette Williams

REHAB: Peggy McGowen

SHUT-INS: Valeria Canada, Lorene Edge, Cora Epperson, FM Hylander, Evelyn Fowler, Sallye Giles, Irmagene Hall, Margaret Jones, Jackie Lorensen, Dot McEwen, Billy & Betty Moore, Dorinda Murphy, Helen Weathers

FAMILY: Jeanette Barnes, Maxine Drewery, Sallye Giles, Mike Hasler, Zayden Huffman, Judy Lee, Sam Macmillan-deployed, Mike Massey, Jacob Maxwell-deployed, Sandra Morris, Terrance Simmons, Ray Yearwood,

Joyful
NOISE
SING & BE HAPPY TODAY

Please join us **Friday, April 13, 2018** for a quarterly gospel singing. This will be a **family night** of acappella singing at its best. **Todd Cottrell** will be our emcee and all area congregations are invited to attend. Singing will be in the Family Life Center beginning at **7PM**. Come and have your spirit renewed!

VBS

Reserve the dates in **July from the 15—18** for VBS. More information to follow later.



Reminders . . .

- ☞ Use **CAUTION** in the **FLC and hallways** due to upgrades/painting
- ☞ The **TLC's** will meet at **Hazel's Tuesday, April 17, at 8:30AM**

Invite a friend to Worship

WE NEED EACH OTHER

But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.
(Hebrews 3:13-14)

"Am I my brother's keeper?" The answer is YES. If you are a Christian, you have a mutual bond with other Christians to protect them from an "evil, unbelieving heart" that will lead them "to fall away from the living God" (Hebrews 3:12). We have the opportunity to be the anti-Cain, the opportunity to love and protect your brothers and sisters from sin and unbelief, which leads to death.

This means we need each other. We need each other to speak truth so that we will keep on believing Jesus and never take our eyes off Jesus. We need this truth from those who love us because all sin is a lie. Sin is deceitful and it will harden us to the point that unbelief will lead us away from the living God.

Sometimes the exhortation we need to hear is, "Jesus is better! Why would you leave Jesus?" But other times the exhortation we need to hear is, "If you leave Jesus, you will be lost and totally destroyed."

We need to give a word of exhortation like Barnabas did for Saul. When Saul became a Christian, his brethren were "afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles" (Acts 9:26-27). Over 1/4 of the New Testament was written by Saul, who became Paul. We can only wonder what would have happened had Barnabas not reached his encouraging arm around Paul and spoke up for him.

We need to give a word of exhortation like Paul did for Peter. Peter became embroiled in a controversy where he was treating some Christians differently because they were Gentiles. So Paul says that when he saw Peter, "I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned" (Galatians 2:11). It takes incredible love and courage to warn your brother or sister of the danger they face by taking their eyes off Jesus.

If you are a Christian, you are not only united to Jesus but you are united with all other Christians. Just as you have relationship of love and commitment with Jesus, you have a relationship of love and commitment with your brothers and sisters. We are called to be a Barnabas to one another. We are called to be a Paul to one another. Our Bible Class Care Groups at Goodman Oaks are the perfect place for this kind of exhortation and fellowship to thrive. **Matthew**

YOUTH NEWS

SUMMER CAMP

Registration for Camp is now open. Please be sure to go to www.sardislakechristiancamp.org to register your child. The full amount is not due at registration. You can pay a deposit only. The dates for our session of camp are **Sunday, May 27 – Saturday, June 2!**

