

## \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, 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.’”<sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

<sup>11</sup> Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’”<sup>12</sup> Therefore prophecy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel.’<sup>13</sup> Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them.”<sup>14</sup> I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.”

Ezekiel 39:9-14 (NIV)

With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. Mark 15:37 (NIV)

That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” he said.<sup>20</sup> As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord!<sup>21</sup> Again he said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.”<sup>22</sup> Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.<sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

John 20:19-23 (NLT)

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.<sup>25</sup> Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.<sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.

Galatians 5:24-26 (NLT)

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## Walking Through The Valley Sermon Series – Message 4



### THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES October 14, 2018 Pastor David Redmond Ezekiel 37:1-14

And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.<sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations. Ezekiel 36:26, 27 (NLT)

### What do you do when you find yourself in a dead end situation or hopeless relationship?

My life drags by—day after hopeless day. Job 7:6 (TLB)

### Take a \_\_\_\_\_ look at your \_\_\_\_\_.

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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” I said, “Sovereign LORD, you alone know.”

Ezekiel 37:1-3 (NIV)

Truth #1: \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ me. (vs. 1, 2)

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.<sup>3</sup> He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name’s sake.<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me;

Psalms 23:1-4a (NASB)

Truth #2: My situation appears \_\_\_\_\_. (vs. 1,2)

*Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.'" Ezekiel 37:11 (NIV)*

*In those days you were living apart from Christ... You lived in this world without God and without hope. Ephesians 2:12 (NLT)*

Truth #3: God is \_\_\_\_\_.

*He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"*

*I said, "Sovereign LORD, you alone know." Ezekiel 37:3 (NIV)*

In order for Ezekiel to answer this question correctly, He had to start with \_\_\_\_\_ God is, not with what he \_\_\_\_\_.

Note: God never asked Ezekiel to describe what he saw, he asked him "can these bones live?" We can become pretty adept at describing the 'dry bones' of life, (i.e. the challenges, obstacles, problems, limitations). God asked Ezekiel if he would see beyond what he saw with his eyes. How about your situation/relationship, do you believe it can come to life?

*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26 (NASB)*

**Speak the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ to yourself and your surroundings.**

*Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! <sup>5</sup>This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. <sup>6</sup>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.'" <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. Ezekiel 37:4-8 (NIV)*

Speak \_\_\_\_\_ my situation.

*"Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!'"*

*Have you realized that most of your unhappiness in life is due to the fact that you are listening to yourself instead of talking to yourself? Take those thoughts that come to you the moment you wake up in the morning. You have not originated them but they are talking to you, they bring back the problems of yesterday, etc. Somebody is talking. Who is talking to you: Your self is talking to you. Now this man's treatment (in Psalm 42) was this: instead of allowing this self to talk to him, he starts talking to himself. "Why art thou cast down, O my soul?" he asks. His soul had been depressing him, crushing him. So he stands up and says, "Self, listen for a moment, I will speak to you."*

*Martin Lloyd Jones*

*"Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him." Psalm 42:5b*

Speak in \_\_\_\_\_ and let my obedience \_\_\_\_\_.

*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.*

*The words of the godly are a life-giving fountain; the words of the wicked conceal violent intentions. Proverbs 10:11 (NLT)*

*Gentle words cause life and health;*

*gripping brings discouragement. Proverbs 15:4 (TLB)*

*The words of the reckless pierce like swords,*

*but the tongue of the wise brings healing. Proverbs 12:18 (NIV)*

Note: All of us have times when we find ourselves surrounded by some stuff that is not working right. It is during those times we need to ask ourselves the question: "Am I going to change my surroundings or will my surroundings change me?" This is the decision we face in the valley of dry bones. When Ezekiel spoke life to his surroundings, instead of the bones rattling him, his words rattled the bones. Remember, the words you speak will all depend upon what is filling your heart (see Matthew 12:34).