

Hope For Dry Bones

Discussion Notes

1. What's the most hopeful moment you've had recently?

This week's sermon explored the story of Ezekiel's vision of the dry bones, a powerful symbol of hope and restoration for a people in exile. It highlighted the historical context of Judah's disobedience, the Babylonian captivity, and the prophetic roles of Daniel and Ezekiel during dark and desperate times. God calls Ezekiel to speak life into the dry bones, demonstrating that no situation is beyond His power to redeem. The message emphasized the importance of spiritual awareness in today's shifting world and calls believers to be watchmen—alert, prayerful, and bold in truth. Ultimately, it reminds us to trust our unknown future to a known and faithful God.

Read Ezekiel 37:1-6,11-12

"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. And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. And he said to me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' And I answered, 'O Lord GOD, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath[b] to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.' ... Then he said to me, 'Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel."

2. How does God's question, "Can these bones live?" challenge both Ezekiel and us in hopeless situations?

Read 1 Peter 5:6-9

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world."

In today's world, we see increasing instability, conflict, and moral confusion. Nations are rising against nations, and truth is often distorted or dismissed. These signs remind us that we are living in spiritually significant times. As believers, we must be alert—discerning the times, standing firm in faith, and using the spiritual weapons of prayer, Scripture, and truth. Now more than ever, we need to stay rooted in God's voice, ready to respond with courage, clarity, and compassion.

Just as Ezekiel was called to speak life and be alert in a time of national crisis, we too are urged to stay watchful—not just for global shifts, but in our personal lives where the enemy seeks to discourage, distract, or devour. Being sober-minded and firm in faith means humbling ourselves before God, trusting Him with our fears, and recognizing that we are not alone in our struggles. It's a reminder that spiritual warfare is real, but so is God's care and power to sustain us. Staying spiritually awake protects us and positions us to stand strong and speak hope—just like Ezekiel.

3. What's one way you can be a "watchman" in your world this week?

Read Psalm 27:1, 13-14

"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?... I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!"

Even in the most hopeless or uncertain times, God is still our light, our salvation, and our stronghold. Just as Ezekiel had to trust God's power to bring life to dry bones, we are called to wait on the Lord with courage and expectation—believing we will see His goodness even now. This kind of trust requires us to stay spiritually engaged, even when we can't see the outcome yet.

4. What keeps people from trusting God with the unknown? What are some practical ways we can grow in trusting Him?

Read Ephesians 6:10-12

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."

God calls us to be strong and ready by putting on His armor every day, just as Ephesians 6 reminds us. Like Ezekiel, we are invited to bring hope and life to dry, difficult situations by trusting God's power and staying alert.

5. How can you put on God's armor daily to stay strong and bring hope to others?

Closing/Prayer

- Pray for strength and courage to put on God's armor daily.
- Pray for spiritual awareness to recognize and stand firm against challenges.
- Pray for a heart that brings hope and life to others in difficult times.