



Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

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Walk Listen Speak Rattle

Message preached on Sunday Morning, November 10, 2024

Often battles come along that we get really frustrated with and try to figure out why those battles come.

James is very clear that temptations, tests and trials don't come from the Lord.

(i.e. – He's not taking things from you or bringing you sickness.)

Psalm 23:4 – “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”

NOTICE: He is not taking you to a battle...but often leading you to a new level of blessing and **you have to learn to trust Him in the battle** that you currently are located.

If you can learn to follow His Word and His Spirit while you are WALKING through the tough times...you WILL find yourself on the mountain top of victory.

THIS WEEK: I was asking the Lord for the message He had for us this week.

As I was listening, He said go to this passage and I will show you something...so I did.

Ezekiel 37:1-10 (read the whole passage first)

1 The **hand of the LORD was upon me**, and **carried me out in the spirit of the LORD**, and set me down in **the midst of the valley which was full of bones**,

NOTE#1: We know that this is a vision. It is not real. But God is wanting to show Ezekiel something that will unleash things for Israel...and for us!

NOTE #2: This is under the direction of the Lord.

Just like Psalm 23:4

REMEMBER: When battles come...it is your opportunity to trust God's Word. James 1 – It builds patience...consistency.

You don't need faith if there is never a battle.

NOTICE: He is in the middle of the battle...not overcome by it.

He is NOT a dry bone...but surrounded by it on every side.

NOTE #3: “Dry bones” – vs. 2 tells us they were VERY dry bones.

They are not just dead people...they are not just dead for a little while...they have been dead for a LOOOOOONG time! I mean a real long time.

There was nothing on the bones...they had been in the sun a long time and were bleached and frail.

QUESTION #1: You ever (perhaps now) find yourself in that kind of situation...not just frustrating...not just gonna get back on track in a paycheck or two, but no hope in sight? Ya! Are you really feeling the heat?

These dry bones had been scavenged by birds...wild animals had taken arms, legs. Ribs, etc. and used 'em for dinner for treats...ran off with them...moved them to different areas of the bone yard.

In other words there was chaos and disorder all around.

QUESTION #2: Does your life seem in chaos? Disorder?

NOTE #4: The thing with the valley of dry bones is that it was also a place of disgrace and shame. An unburied body with exposed remains is a HUGE disgrace to the dead. Left for the animals.

They were obviously denied proper burial...mostly for being a criminal or something. But the Bible actually pronounces a judgment on those who are not buried properly.

THEREFORE: These bones had a shame on them...a reproach...a disgrace attached to them.

QUESTION #3: What kind of shame has the enemy brought on you over your current situation? Ya!

Joshua 5:9 – Before the children of Israel could move into the better...they had to get rid of the shame.

- 2 And ***caused me to pass by them round about***: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry.

This statement got my attention.

God didn't just have Ezekiel stand on the edge of the valley and look down...he actually had him **MOVE AMONG** them.

Several versions says He led Ezekiel through them.

NOW again, I am not saying that God is bring horrible things on you...often we make our bed and are surprised at what we find ourselves sleeping in (James 1:14).

YET: When we are begging God to remove us from it or change the situation quickly...He just leads us inside of it.

YOU MIGHT SAY: Well, why won't He get me out NOW? I want out NOW!

LISTEN: James 1 – When patience has had its complete work, you will be perfect and complete lacking nothing.

He is bringing you out...but in a way that will bring you complete victory and keep you at the mountaintop.

LISTEN: God doesn't allow you in the middle of the circumstance to be overcome by it...but for you to overtake it.

Psalm 23:4 – purpose of the valley? Mountain top.

Joshua 1:3 – Purpose to stepping into battles? To take the ground.

Joshua 6 – Purpose of WALKING around the walls of Jericho? To take the city.

LISTEN: We are not intended to just WALK AROUND in the middle of our situations...but to bring life to them!

- 3 And he said unto me, ***Son of man, can these bones live?*** And I answered, ***O Lord GOD, thou knowest.***

I love the fact that God is asking him a question that God already knows the answer to...

QUESTION: Why is God asking Ezekiel this question?

ANSWER: Because God already knows what He wants to do in this dry situation...but *if you just decide to stand in the middle and complain or speculate what caused all of this death*, nothing will change.

BELOVED: If you don't care...nothing will get done.

God letting Ezekiel know that this dry circumstance is in HIS HANDS.

EZEKIEL is letting God know...you give me wisdom and direction, and whatever you desired out come is...will happen.

- 4 Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.
- 5 Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:
- 6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

God said, "Speak to the mountain." Tell the mountain EXACTLY where to go..what to do...how to change.

Don't talk about how dry they are...talk about the coming together, the muscles, organs, and skins. Give details.

ILLUSTRATION: Jessica and I and our kids. She wasn't suppose to have kids...we spoke specifically about our kids. We got our kids (now grandkids).

BELOVED: Quit complaining about the battle you find yourself in...quit rehearsing how bad everything is...and start speaking what God, Himself, says.

Matthew 8:8 – "...speak the Word only..."

Say what God says...only!

GUESS what happens when you say what God says?

- 7 ***So I prophesied as I was commanded:*** and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.
- 8 And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them.
- 9 Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.
- 10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

NOTICE: What Ezekiel did?

- 1.) The walked in the situation. Didn't lay down and cry.
- 2.) He sought a Word. God a Word.
- 3.) He spoke the Word...exactly...

GUESS what happened?

The impossible situation changed!

The walls fell down.

The mountain top table appeared.

The things that seemed disjointed...CAME TO LIFE!

The thing that seemed dead...changes history.

I want to take it Up a Notch

I was meditating on this verse...obviously with the thoughts of dry situations in our lives...battles, etc.
BUT the Holy Spirit also stirred up another arena that I felt needed to be brought out for understanding.

How many of us find ourselves in jobs that seem aggravating, frustrating.

Perhaps you don't like them.

Perhaps they are not appreciating you enough.

Perhaps you are not getting the raises they said you should.

Perhaps you feel stuck.

Did the election cause chaos?

Maybe you are annoyed because of people who are unsaved and act it...push it, etc.

What do we do?

1.) **Don't spend your life wishing it away.**

Going to work frustrated and angry...wishing you could do something else.

REALIZE that even in the hardest situation...your Good Shepherd is still leading and loving.

IN OTHER WORDS: He has you standing where you are standing, walking where you are walking
 for SUCH A TIME as this!

2.) **Get a Word! God's Word.**

Fill your life with the Word.

Allow yourself to be led by the Spirit.

Your PRIORITY!

3.) **Speak the Word...and Prophecy.**

LISTEN: If your feet are on that ground...it is YOURS TO TAKE!

YOU SAY: Well, I pray that I won't kill anyone, everyday!

That is NOT what this is saying.

YOU SAY: According to the Word, exactly what you are expecting.

Speak revival to the office...speak salvation to everyone...speak opportunities...speak interest...
 speak LIGHT.

Don't let yourself complain...don't let yourself gossip about what is wrong...SPEAK the Word only!

Watch it change!

You may be looking at your job as an annoyance so you can pay bills.

Perhaps God is looking at it as a valley of dry bones that needs life spoke into it...change it...

Conclusion

Whatever you find yourself in the middle of...keep walking, keep listening, keep speaking!

And the bones will begin to rattle!