



Grow. Pray. Serve.

April 2, 2017

Humpty Dumpty Moments

1. *"Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall. Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. All the king's horses and all the king's men, couldn't put Humpty Dumpty back together again."* Sometimes we feel like Humpty Dumpty.
2. Book of the Prophet Ezekiel.
 - a. Odd character. Used by God to interpret the times and offer hope.
 - b. 900 BCE, divided kingdom. Israel north. Judah south. 722 Israel overtaken by Assyrians. 587 BCE Jerusalem decimated by Babylonians. Ezekiel around during this time.
 - c. 3 sections of Book. 1st section, words of doom and why people are in exile. 2nd section, condemnation of surrounding countries. 3rd section, words of hope and restoration; Valley of Dry Bones.
3. The Valley of Dry Bones.
 - a. Ezekiel has a vision of dried out bones in a valley. God tells Ezekiel to prophesy to the bones. The bones rattle, come together, are covered with skin, and God breathes life into them.
 - b. Then God says, "Ezekiel, these bones represent the people of Israel. I will open their graves of exile, they will rise again, and return home."
4. Relevant Lessons for Us.
 - a. God's promise through the story of the Valley of Dry Bones and through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, is in fact the same promise that God continues to make to each and every one of us. While all the king's horses and all the king's men may not be able to do a darn thing about hopelessness, despair, shattered lives, or death itself, God can, has, and will continue to. God will put us back together.
 - b. "God, I don't have the answers, but you do."
 - c. Hope. "Hope does not suggest certainty, but rather confidence and an attitude of expectancy." Hope for renewal. Hope for transformation. Hope for a new beginning. Hope for change. Hope for how things should be. Place hope in God and what God can do.
 - d. God's Spirit within us working out things for good. From Romans 8, Paul's words echo Ezekiel's.
 - i. Paul in essence says, "God's Spirit is within us, living and breathing. God is the source of our life. We need not worry at all about the future. And in the meantime, God's Spirit is within us working out the details of our lives into something good, even if we can't see it."
 - ii. Trust God. Put your hope in God. Allow God to work for good through whatever it is.

Today's Scripture Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The Lord took hold of me, and I was carried away by the Spirit of the Lord to a valley filled with bones. 2 He led me all around among the bones that covered the valley floor. They were scattered everywhere across the ground and were completely dried out. 3 Then he asked me, "Son of man, can these bones become living people again?"

"O Sovereign Lord," I replied, "you alone know the answer to that."

4 Then he said to me, "Speak a prophetic message to these bones and say, 'Dry bones, listen to the word of the Lord! 5 This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Look! I am going to put breath into you and make you live again! 6 I will put flesh and muscles on you and cover you with skin. I will put breath into you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'"

7 So I spoke this message, just as he told me. Suddenly as I spoke, there was a rattling noise all across the valley. The bones of each body came together and attached themselves as complete skeletons. 8 Then as I watched, muscles and flesh formed over the bones. Then skin formed to cover their bodies, but they still had no breath in them.

9 Then he said to me, "Speak a prophetic message to the winds, son of man. Speak a prophetic message and say, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, O breath, from the four winds! Breathe into these dead bodies so they may live again.'"

10 So I spoke the message as he commanded me, and breath came into their bodies. They all came to life and stood up on their feet—a great army.

11 Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones represent the people of Israel. They are saying, 'We have become old, dry bones—all hope is gone. Our nation is finished.' 12 Therefore, prophesy to them and say, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: O my people, I will open your graves of exile and cause you to rise again. Then I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13 When this happens, O my people, you will know that I am the Lord. 14 I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live again and return home to your own land. Then you will know that I, the Lord, have spoken, and I have done what I said. Yes, the Lord has spoken!'"



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