

Sermon Notes and Discussion Questions: Revision - Requires Revival

In the midst of this landscape of death, God showed that He was powerful enough to bring life. For us as Christians, the hope of life trumps the reality of death because we know that Jesus is alive.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ EZEKIEL 37:1-11.

1. Acknowledge our need for God.

God has always been about resurrection. When Ezekiel received this vision, the people of Israel had walked away from God and were in the middle of experiencing exile from Him.

What sticks out to you the most about the description of the valley?

Why was this valley a good picture of the spiritual state of Israel when they were in exile?

This vision was not just about Israel's national exile; it was also about a bigger spiritual exile that we are all a part of. In what sense were all of us exiled, or separated, from God?

Why is it essential to acknowledge that we are powerless and hopeless without the power of God?

What evidence do you see that we often rely on our own strength for salvation, renewal, and revival?

This valley was the picture of death. Not only was it filled with bones, but they were dry bones—completely devoid of life of any kind. The only hope of life was through the power of God. Until we recognize this fact, the resurrection of Jesus and what He offers us because of it won't really mean much to us.

Read Romans 3:10-18 and Ephesians 2:1-3. What similarities do you see between these verses and Ezekiel's vision? Why do you think Ezekiel responded the way he did to God's question (v. 3)? What does that mean about the solution to our spiritual separation from God?

2. Believe in the power of God to bring about change.

When Ezekiel saw the picture of death, he knew that the only way the bones could live is if God did something miraculous. No matter how much those bones might have wanted to live, they were powerless to change their condition. It's the same way with us; it's only through God's mercy and grace that revival can be experienced.

Why is it important that Ezekiel spoke the Word of God over the dry bones before they started to live? What is the Word of God that God uses to bring us life, renewal, and revival? Why must we believe and remember the resurrection of Jesus in order to have hope?

3. Commit to being a part of revival.

How is this life God brought to us like the life He brought into the valley of dry bones?

When Jesus Himself was in the valley of death, God the Father rolled the rock away from the front of Jesus' tomb and breathed life into His dry bones just as He did in this valley. This is God's message for us—the gospel. When we hear the good news, God breathes life into us as we believe. As we are raised to life, just as Jesus was, we can know that life trumps death not only for Jesus, but also for us. And as he raises us up he is raising us up in to a powerful army for His glory. His perfect plan includes us recognizing our place in His army and sharing the life changing message of the Gospel.

APPLICATION

If the message that brings life from death is the message of the gospel, who is one person in your sphere of influence who needs to hear this message? How are you going to remind yourself daily that Jesus is alive? What difference do you think that will make in your life?

PRAYER

Pray specifically for our church and the individuals and families that make up the body. Pray we would experience revival.