

Mount Zion marks forty years of ministry and looks forward with a clear, biblically rooted vision: restoration. The congregation frames those decades in the same line as Hebrews 11—faithful obedience produced legacy, yet God still has more to accomplish. Restoration becomes the central theme: God intends to bring people, marriages, and communities back to their original purpose and vitality, just as Ezekiel watched dry bones return to life when God breathed into them. Ezekiel 37 serves as the foundation for hope—what humans cannot revive, God can restore by his Spirit and word.

The mission flows from that vision. Mount Zion exists to make disciples who live by and proclaim Scripture, engage in Spirit-led worship, and build authentic community in anticipation of Christ's return. Scripture functions as the instruction manual for rebuilding broken lives; discipleship acts as restoration in practice, rebuilding piece by piece through ongoing surrender, obedience, and teaching. The Holy Spirit plays a decisive role: the same breath that animates Ezekiel's vision guides conviction, exposes blind spots, and directs the steps of renewal.

Community and structure receive equal attention. Intentional discipleship systems, small groups, and mentoring pathways aim to move discipleship beyond Sunday into daily life. Staff development and new leadership roles will support a culture where mentorship, accountability, and sustained spiritual growth become ordinary. Practical next steps include an invitation for each member to “link arms”—to commit time, gifts, and resources toward seeing dry bones in the community live again—and a new sermon series, *Baggage Claim*, that addresses addiction, broken relationships, guilt, identity, and mental health with an altar call for restoration.

The call closes with a clear challenge: yield to Scripture, yield to the Spirit, and invest in authentic community so restoration can accelerate across the region. The narrative insists that revival will not arrive through programs alone but through a people who submit to God's Word, walk in the Spirit, and intentionally disciple one another. Baptism and testimony anticipate visible fruit as lives transform and the congregation prepares for the next season of faithful obedience and outward restoration.

Key Takeaways

1. Restoration remains God's present work

Restoration doesn't stop with past accomplishments; it presses into the future as an active, ongoing movement. The community remembers faithful years but recognizes that God still calls to unfinished restoration—bringing people, marriages, and ministries back to their intended shape and purpose. This posture reframes ministry as continual revival rather than legacy maintenance. [32:27]

2. God's Word rebuilds broken lives

Scripture functions like an instruction manual for reconstruction: when lives shatter, the Bible gives step-by-step truth to reassemble identity, choices, and relationships. Discipleship uses Scripture to correct, train, and form the character necessary for durable change rather than quick fixes. Returning to God's revealed way reorients decisions and restores function over time. [48:24]

3. Discipleship must be Spirit-led

Restoration requires breath—the Holy Spirit moving where human effort cannot reach. The Spirit exposes blind spots, applies Scripture inwardly, and brings life where words alone cannot. A discipleship culture that relies on the Spirit produces conviction, timely guidance, and the power to change. [55:56]

4. Authentic community multiplies restoration

Intentional, accountable relationships turn private growth into communal renewal. Small groups, mentorship, and strategic discipleship pathways create contexts where honesty meets correction and grace fuels perseverance. When believers commit to one another, restoration spreads beyond individuals into families and neighborhoods. [59:53]

Bible reading

Ezekiel 37:1–14 (ESV)

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, “Prophesy 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 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.” So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. 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 prophesy, 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. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.”

Observation questions

What did God ask Ezekiel when He brought him into the valley of dry bones, and how did Ezekiel respond?

What two things did God command Ezekiel to do in this passage?

What was the final result after Ezekiel obeyed God’s commands?

According to the passage, who do the dry bones represent, and what was their condition emotionally and spiritually?

Interpretation questions

Why do you think God used dry bones—not just dead, but *dry* bones—as the object lesson in this vision? What does that tell us about the kind of restoration only God can bring?

God told Ezekiel to “prophesy to the breath.” What might this teach us about the role of God’s Spirit versus human effort in bringing life and restoration?

The passage ends with God saying, “I have spoken, and I will do it.” How does this reinforce the idea that restoration is ultimately God’s work, not ours?

In the sermon, it was said that “discipleship is restoration in action” [47:54]. How does the process described in Ezekiel 37 mirror the process of discipleship in a believer’s life?

Application questions

God’s Word is referred to as the “instruction manual” for rebuilding broken lives [50:00]. Are there areas in your life where you’ve been trying to rebuild on your own, without consistently turning to Scripture? What would it look like to bring those broken pieces to God’s Word this week?

The Holy Spirit knows our blind spots—the areas we can’t see but He wants to restore [55:00]. What’s one area in your life you feel the Spirit might be highlighting for restoration, even if it’s uncomfortable to acknowledge?

Authentic community means having people who know the real you and still love, encourage, and speak truth to you [58:59]. Who are those people in your life right now? If you don’t have them, what’s one step you could take this month to pursue that kind of relationship?

The vision of restoration isn’t just for individuals but for marriages, families, and the community. Who do you know that feels like “dry bones”—burdened by addiction, broken relationships, shame, or confusion [44:19]? How can you intentionally pray for or reach out to them this week?

Discipleship requires “surrender by surrender, decision by decision” [51:01]. What’s one decision you’ve been putting off that God might be asking you to surrender to Him today?

The call to “link arms” means using our time, gifts, and resources to see dry bones come to life [01:06:07]. What’s one practical way you can use what God has given you to play your part in His work of restoration?

The new series *Baggage Claim* addresses real strongholds like addiction, shame, and mental health [01:13:59]. Is there someone in your circle who needs an invitation to come and find freedom? What would it look like to courageously invite them?