

Encounter Church
Sunday July 21, 2024

Anchor Down
Restoring Hope

INTRODUCTION: Story of my Dad letting down the anchor on Lake Livingston and sinking the boat. The anchor on the boat was in the wrong location. Where you put your anchor matters.

Hebrews 6:18-20- “So it is impossible for God to lie for we know that his promise and his vow will never change! And now we have run into his heart to hide ourselves in his faithfulness. This is where we find his strength and comfort, for he empowers us to seize what has already been established ahead of time—an unshakable hope! We have this certain hope like a strong, unbreakable anchor holding our souls to God himself. Our anchor of hope is fastened to the mercy seat in the heavenly realm beyond the sacred threshold, and where Jesus, our forerunner, has gone in before us....”

The right anchor in the right place keeps us from drifting. Especially during the storm! Especially in high winds.

Yes, Jesus is our hope and anchor who will keep us in the midst of storms. He is the one who is able to keep us steadfast and unmovable in spite of the tides of life.

Many feel hopeless today! Could it be because we’ve put our HOPE in the wrong place or in the wrong thing or wrong person.

I want to speak to hopelessness and disappointment today! More people are disappointed and depressed than what we might realize. Many people have lost all hope!

Ezekiel 37:1,2 - “The Lord took hold of me, and I was carried away by the Spirit of the Lord to a valley filled with bones. 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.”

WHAT DO THESE BONES REPRESENT?

Ezekiel 37:11- “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.’”

Anytime you come to a place of hopelessness it’s because you’re believing a lie!

Proverbs 13:12 - "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a dream fulfilled is a tree of life."

MSG- "Unrelenting disappointment leaves you heartsick,
but a sudden good break can turn life around."

Psalms 42:5,11. 43:5- "Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again— my Savior and my God."

HOW CAN OUR HOPE BE RESTORED

1. Our Source Must Be God

Ezekiel 37:3 -"He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"
I said, "Master God, only you know that."

"If they're going to live God, you're the source!"

Psalms 43:4 - "There I will go to the altar of God, to God—the source of all my joy.
I will praise you with my harp, O God, my God!"

HOPE IN GOD! WHY? HE'S THE SOURCE!

Romans 4:18- "Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had said to him, "That's how many descendants you will have!"

2. Hear God's Voice

Ezekiel 37:4-6 - "Then he said to me, "Speak a prophetic message to these bones and say, 'Dry bones, listen to the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Look! I am going to put breath into you and make you live again! 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.'"

GOD STILL SPEAKS TO HIS CHILDREN

John 10:27- "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

DO YOU NEED TO HEAR GOD'S VOICE TODAY? START BY READING YOUR BIBLE!

Psalms 119:105 - "Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."

Psalms 119:81- "I am worn out waiting for your rescue, but I have put my hope in your word."

3. Become God's Voice

Ezekiel 37:7-10 -"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. 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. 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.'" 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."

The prophet became the voice of God to the valley of dry bones!

Mark 11:22-24 - "Then Jesus said to the disciples, "Have faith in God. I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, 'May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea, 'and it will happen. But you must really believe it will happen and have no doubt in your heart. I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours."

4. Have Faith in God

Ezekiel 37:14 - "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!"

WHO PROMISED THEM THIS LAND? WHOSE PLAN WAS THIS?

Numbers 23:19 - "God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through?"

CONCLUSION: What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message? Are you without hope? Are you discouraged? Are you depressed? Today I believe God wants to RESTORE HOPE!

Hebrews 10:36 - "Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised."

