Dare.To.Pray. Bring to Life What Once Was Dead PASTOR CRAIG SWEENEY October 11, 2020

Thread: God is challenging you to ask Him to move a mountain.

The Lord took hold of me, and I was carried away by the Spirit of the Lord to a valley filled with bones.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> 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." <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Speak a prophetic message to these bones and say, 'Dry bones, listen to the word of the Lord!<sup>5</sup> This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Look! I am going to put breath into you and make you live again! <sup>6</sup> 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.'"

<sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> 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.'"

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> 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.' **(Ezekiel 37:1–11 NLT)** 

## What does God reveal about you and Himself?

## God has to show us:

• What He has prepared for us.

# Time well spent

- Walking amongst the dead and what once was alive.
- Grieving what's lost makes me crave the resurrection all the more.
- Some of us NEED to take TIME to walk among the destruction our decisions have caused.
- Ezekiel needed to understand the devastation of what happened here in order to GRASP the miracle God wanted to do through him.

#### God's WORDS matter:

- This is WHY we train our ears to His voice. He will tell me where to GO!
- David, overwhelmed by his sin/disobedience to God, KNEW where to RUN.

Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. (Psalm 51:1 NLT)

- If you/I don't KNOW GOD'S WORDS, there is a LOT you/I don't know.
- Psalm 119:1–12
- Our generation has lost its curiosity to the things of God, to its downfall.

## There is a TIME to speak WORDS of LIFE over what is DEAD

• David: Gods Word led him to speak these words of life over what was dead inside him.

Purify me from my sins and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.<sup>8</sup> Oh, give me back my joy again;... Remove the stain of my guilt.... Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.<sup>11</sup> Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me.<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation... (Psalm 51:7-9, 10-12 NLT)

- Requires FAITH; NEED a GIFT of FAITH
- It's TIME to step into His presence and ask Him to move a mountain for YOU.
- ★ This week I DARE YOU to PRAY that God would bring to life what once was dead.

## Challenge:

- In your life... what is dead/dying?
  - It's time to ask for a mountain to be moved.
  - Bring to life what once was dead.
- Increase my faith!

Next Week: God responds to Ezekiel's faith.

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