

Some further notes from Allan

2020.03.29 CAN THESE BONES LIVE

EZEKIEL 37:1-14

“Son of man, can these bones live?”

“O Lord God You know”.

The bones were very dry and as the writer of the Psalm despairs

“my bones have dried up” Psalm 32

There are times when our days seem to be not alive – whether it is at a low level or full on dried up

- we can be so busy that we are not living in the moment or really down and facing suicide –

Let’s see what this passage shows us and know that it is not just about the miracle of the one story of physical bones.

Recognise

Acknowledge where we are at.

Do we know the Lord is with us?

Speak what we believe – no matter how low it is.

Acknowledge our dependence on God “Lord You know”.

V4 Ezekiel was told that HE was to speak the words of life to the bones – not the Lord!

We have to take the one small step that we can manage e.g. each morning and throughout the day think/speak the words “thank you Lord for this day” they may not/will not be sincere at the start but they will become meaningful and will begin to bring the bones back together again.

It is a matter of trusting whatever faith we have that God is with us and we can be honest with God – after all – God already knows!

Then flesh out by taking whatever action is appropriate for ourselves to recover – but knowing that Gods Presence is with us – have a look at the 12 Step Recovery Programme it is based on scripture principles.

V9 again the Lord tells him that he is to take control and speak the words.

V13 “then you will know that I AM the Lord, when I have opened your grave, My people and caused you to come out of your graves, My people.

And v14 “I WILL put My Spirit, My Presence within you and you will come to live, I the Lord have spoken and done it”. It is an unmovable, unchangeable commitment by God to each of us as individuals!

Link with the promise by Jesus in John 14-16 of asking the Father to send His Presence to be in us individually.

PSALM 130

Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord.

² Lord, hear my voice!

Let Your ears be attentive

To the voice of my supplications.

³ If You, ^[a]Lord, should mark iniquities,

O Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But there is forgiveness with You,

That You may be feared.

⁵ I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait,

And ^[b]in His word do I hope.

⁶ My soul *waits* for the Lord

More than the watchmen for the morning;

Indeed, more than the watchmen for the morning.

⁷ O hope in the Lord;

For with the Lord there is lovingkindness,

And with Him is abundant redemption.

⁸ And He will redeem me

From all my iniquities.

(I have substituted the word ‘me’ for Israel - making it a personal application)

John 11:1-45

Once again, we see a very common life tragedy of someone being sick and relatives praying for healing.

In this case the family had direct physical contact with Jesus and the sick man Lazarus was a close friend of Jesus and yet he died – I assume as a youngish man.

What did Jesus do – nothing for three days – he could have spared the family and his friend the pain and grief of sickness yet he deliberately waited three days – v4 “This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by/in it.”

And so, it is with us – we give honour and trust to God by how we trust in God in being sick and by how we love when someone else is sick. There may be healing, there will be resurrection – yet we may suffer in physical or mental or emotional hurt – the reality is how “I” as either the sick person or as someone who cares for them

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We can show God's love and our trust in God by the way and the attitude and words we speak as we care for, pray for, grieve for the sick person. “Jesus wept.”

We can “show the glory of God, through our trust in Jesus the Son of God.” I

In reality Jesus has already given us a ‘rising from the dead’ in bringing us into the family of God!

What did he say to the priest who came to him at night – “you must be born again” and so he was and so are we.

V25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if they die,

V26 anyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. *Do you believe this?*”

We do not wait until we physically die to live – the Lord said, the night before his death that he would ask the Father and that the Father would send His Presence, His Spirit to live in us *now* and that the Spirit would be our friend and guide and comforter and would be Jesus to us. **“Lazarus, come forth.”**

Children’s reflection from Allan

See if you can find a dried sponge. (If not imagine it - as dry as very dry bone.)

If you did find a dry sponge, describe its dry texture..... Then dip it in water Oh how it has changed!

If you can add a coloured dye to the water, you will see it change colour!

We might be a little like this sponge. What we take into us will affect us. What sort of things do we take in?? (*discuss - food, water, what we watch in computer games, what we listen to, doing good or bad things?*)

Do these affect us? E.g. anger, happiness, smiles, sadness
Like the dry sponge we can take into ourselves what we think about good and bad.

BUT - Think about Jesus - we can share stories of his life and mission for us and we can talk to him in prayer.

SoooooooooThe bad stuff we tell God and other people that we are sorry and the good stuff makes us smile.