

Lent Devotion for Wednesday, March 29

Ezekiel 37:1-14

GRAVES WIDE OPEN

“And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people.”

During my seminary days, one of the things I did was wait until the week a ten-page paper is due before I began writing, but my brain could not get past the first two paragraphs. For others, from locking keys in the car, to an unexpected diagnosis, to the feeling of rejection, I’m afraid there is a societal sense of entrapment, conforming us to anxiety and setting up for complacent lives.

There are graves of captivity all around us where every person, at some point, feels stuck either physically, emotionally, or spiritually.

“Life,” as this world knows it, can sometimes take the life out of us. The Lord asks Ezekiel, “Son of man, can these bones live?” The bones in the valley were so dry they were lifeless. But they were not hopeless. God was ready to breathe his miraculous power into them. Ezekiel answered and said, “Sovereign Lord, you alone know.” This is a common answer to so many of our questions: “Only God knows.”

My favorite part of this Scripture passage is when the Lord tells Ezekiel to prophesy and say, “Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!” The dry bones represented Israel’s spiritually dead condition. We can relate to this today in a personal way. Can dry bones hear? It sounds impossible. But isn’t this the point where God comes in? Romans 10:17 says, “Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.” The same Spirit that God breathed into Adam and Eve’s nostrils, that descended the valley into these dead bones, and raised Jesus from his dusty grave is the same wind that can fling our graves wide open.

Rather than giving up when stuck in life, let us pray aloud and exclaim from our souls, “Life is found in you alone, ‘O God...renew a steadfast spirit within me.’ and I will live!” (Psalm 51:10)

Dear Jesus, you are the way, the truth, and the life. Help us hear your voice amongst our anxious imaginations. We draw near today and wait for your Spirit to breathe new life into each area of our lives. Amen.