

Graves into gardens

Intro

- We sang a new song this morning *Graves into gardens*
- It speaks of our pursuit before Christ of something that can fill the void
- Jesus addresses this w/ the woman at the well
- *"Every desire is now satisfied here in your love*
- We find in Christ everything we are looking for! Our soul's craving has one answer: Jesus
- We don't have to hide -we can show Jesus everything, and we rest in the reality that his grace is enough!
- Then we begin to glorify him:
 - You turn mourning to dancing
 - You give beauty for ashes
 - You turn shame into glory
 - You're the only one who can (Come on)
- And again
 - You turn graves into gardens
 - You turn bones into armies
 - You turn seas into highways
 - You're the only one who can (He's the only Lord)
- It is the phrase **You turn bones into armies** I want to share today
- I want to share the story and apply it to our situation today

Message

The condition (vv1-3)

Eze 37:1-3 (ESV) (1) *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. (2) 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. (3) And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know."*

- Valley of bones
- A place of defeat (army slaughter?)
- A place of disgrace (not even buried)
- **Question:** Can they live?
- Certainly not in the natural!
- **Answer:** Lord you know

The call - part 1 (vv4-6)

Eze 37:4-6 (ESV) (4) *Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. (5) Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. (6) 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."*

- Speak (prophecy to them)
- Speak the word of the Lord
- Speak the impossible (if it's the Word!)
- There is power in the promises, power in his word
- What are we speaking about the *dry bones* in our life?
- Have we given up? He's the God who makes *bones into armies*

The consequences - part 1 (vv7-8)

Eze 37:7-8 (ESV) (7) *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. (8) 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.*

- Obedience! That's the key. No matter how silly it seems, or unconnected - we must obey
- Our obedience unlocks God's power and blessing

The call - part 2 (v9)

Eze 37:9 (ESV) (9) *Then he said to me, "Prophecy 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."*

- No breath - no Spirit

- Speak again
- Fill them with your breath
- Lord raise up an army - a spirit filled army out of the bones that lay scattered before me
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The consequences - part 2 (v10)

Eze 37:10 (ESV) *(10) 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.*

- Obedience again
- The impossible became a reality

Application

Nothing is impossible with God

- That's the point of the song
- We need a connection with Jesus to fill the emptiness
- But he is able to do exceedingly and abundantly more than we can ask or think

God has a plan we can't see

- We see dry bones
- God sees an army
- He has a plan and purpose

God's word is powerful

- what are we speaking about our valley of bones

Will you obey?

- God is looking for people with the faith to obey!
- Who will do what's ridiculous in the worlds eyes
- Who will obey and speak God's promises until they become reality?

Closing

- What are the dry bones in your life
- What has the Lord said about them?

Communion

1 Cor 11:23-26 (NIV) (23) *For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, (24) and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." (25) In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." (26) For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*