



“CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: DOING WHO I AM”

Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.” Isaiah 6:8

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TEXT: EZEKIEL 37:1-14

TITLE: EMPOWERED TO EMPOWER

INTRODUCTION

- A. Consider a situation of utter hopelessness and despair _____
- B. Consider something that will never change, never improve, never turn around, never get better... _____

GOD: “CAN THESE BONES LIVE?”

- A. Before an answer is given, consider _____
 - 1. We throw bones away
 - 2. Bones are a sign that life is over / all hope is gone
- B. Therefore, the logical, rational answer is “No. These bones cannot live” _____
- C. Reflect on the situation you previously considered _____

EZEKIEL: “LORD, YOU KNOW”

- A. Interestingly, Ezekiel did not say, “No” _____
- B. Why did Ezekiel answer, “Lord, You know”? _____
- C. Why should we answer, “Lord, You know”? _____
 - 1. God does not ask a question for which He does not have an answer
 - 2. We need to give God the final word

GOD: “PROPHECY TO THESE BONES”

- A. Prophecy = to speak through inspiration / divine influence _____
- B. Prophecy what? “Hear the word of the Lord” _____
 - 1. I am going to put breath into you and make you live again!
 - 2. I will put flesh and muscles on you and cover you with skin
 - 3. I will put breath into you, and you will come to life
 - 4. Then you will know that I am the Lord
- C. As I prophesied... (rattling sound as bones came together, flesh, muscles and skin came on the skeletons) _____
- D. However, there was no breath in them (no breath, no life) _____
- E. Prophecy to the breath _____
 - 1. “Thus says the Lord God: ‘Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live’”
 - 2. So I prophesied, breath came into them, they lived, and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

WHAT DO YOU SEE VERSUS WHAT GOD SAYS?

- A. Reflect on the situation you previously considered _____
- B. We see dry bones, lost hope and shattered dreams _____
- C. God says, _____
 - 1. “I will open your graves and bring you up from them”
 - 2. “I will put My Spirit [breath] in you and you shall live”