

Dry Bones

Ezekiel 37 is a story of renewal in spite of what seems hopeless. Israel was a discouraged nation having no strength in her. God brought Ezekiel out into a valley full of bones and had Ezekiel to walk about among them. Ezekiel commented that the bones were very dry.

Ezekiel 37:3-6 “And He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” So I answered, “O Lord GOD, You know.” Again He said to me, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD." ' ' "

So, Ezekiel prophesied as he was commanded and the bones came together to form individual skeletons. Then sinews and flesh came upon them, and then skin, but there was no life in them. Next God told Ezekiel to prophesy to the breath of the bodies that they might live again, and he did as commanded.

Ezekiel 37:11 Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!'"

Perhaps you feel as Israel did, that your bones are dry and all hope is lost. It is hard not to become discouraged when the events of our life seem to all be going against us. That is how Israel felt. But Israel had gone a step further—they had lost hope that things could be any better. As a result, they needed to be reminded that they serve a God who loves them and who can breathe new life into them; a God who will bring hope where all seems hopeless.

Paul spoke of the strengthening that comes from God that can renew us to a spirit of hope.

Ephesians 3:16-21 “that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

Don't give up hope. No matter what seemingly insurmountable thing that you are facing, you are not facing it alone.

Your Elders

To Our Guests

We are so pleased and honored that you have chosen to visit with us today! Chase Park is a wonderful Christian family, devoted to serving God through our lives and work. We are excited to share our love for Christ with others and we are thankful to have the opportunity to meet you and to have you join us for worship.

As we worship together today, our desire is to worship God according to the New Testament pattern and in a way that is pleasing and acceptable to Him. It is also our prayer that our time together is uplifting to those who are here including you, our guest. If you have any questions about anything that you see or hear today, please ask us. We would love to speak with you about those things and help you in any way that we can.



Chase Park Church of Christ

Ministers

Rusty Hills Pulpit
Nathan Adams..... Outreach
John Denney Education
Andrew Lamica..... Youth Minister

Elders

John Denney
Curtis Hill
Sam Kachelman
Dennis Lawson
Greg Parker
Barry Todd

Missionaries

Jaime Mendoza Chalco, Mexico
Liborio Encarnacion. Ecatepec, Mexico
Slava Savkovsky Ukraine
Barton Kizer..... Peru
Dewayne Tapscott..... Southwest

Lamifications—*Andrew Lamica*

As we continue our look at the Beatitudes it would serve us well to see how beautifully each one builds on the previous. For instance, in order to mourn over our sins, we must be willing to be poor in spirit, empty of self, realizing our need for the love of Jesus.

Continuing on with this incredible sermon, Jesus says *“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”* In order to understand what Jesus is teaching with this Beatitude we must have a proper understanding of the word meek. Meekness is not weakness, which the world might have us to believe. The world lives by ideals such as, “If you are not first, you are last.” Meekness is best described as strength under control. Just because I *can* do something doesn’t mean I should. Just because I might have the *right* to do something doesn’t necessarily make it the *right*

thing to do. The word from which our English word meek is used to describe a wild animal which has been tamed and domesticated and become useful for service. If we are going to be meek, if we are going to be useful in the kingdom of God, we must tame our wants, our desires, our attitudes and our tongues. The blessing attached to being meek is described as *“they shall inherit the earth.”* This must not be understood as a physical blessing, but a spiritual. The meek will be more inclined to enjoy the earthly blessing due to their meek outlook on life. They will enjoy life with greater stability, calmness, and peace. Are you striving daily to be meek? Jesus was meek, let each of us follow His example!

Next, Jesus says, *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”* This one is a little tougher

to understand in our culture because many of us have never truly been “hungry.” In the original language the words used for hunger and thirst are talking about being in dire straights, on the brink of death by malnourishment. In other words, those who are so hungry that they would do anything in their power to get something to eat. Jesus says if we have that type of outlook toward being righteous we will find satisfaction for that desire. If we truly want to be right with God, we will do whatever it takes to put ourselves in that state with Him. Ask yourself, am I hungering and thirsting after righteousness? Am I looking into the word of God to find it?

I hope you have enjoyed studying the Beatitudes so far. The discussion continues in the next article!

Deep Faith In A Shallow World—*Nathan Adams*

In our nation today it is hard to simply find an “American.” Everybody wants to be this or that kind of American. While we come from nations all over the world, we should strive to simply be Americans. Yet, the modern call is for tolerance and open-mindedness toward anything that people invent in their minds to do or claim to be. In Daniel 3 (Read), Nebuchadnezzar called for the people to bow before a large image. They were to bow when they heard the music. However, it seems this was every type of instrument playing every kind of music all at once. I am sure that it sounded awful. What a striking illustration of the multiculturalism of our modern culture. It is at this time that Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah demonstrated five qualities needed to have a deep faith when the world calls for open-mindedness.

First, they had CLARITY. These men knew what they believed. Too many people follow the calls for open-mindedness because they have no idea of what they believe. People who have this clarity of belief are often called radicals in our culture. These three friends were clear on what they knew and believed.

Second, they had CONSTANCY. This was not the first time these friends had resisted the call of the world (Daniel 1). Too many Christians are inconsistent with their faith in their lives. Paul stated, *“Therefore...be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...”* (1 Cor. 15:58).

Third, they had CONVICTION. Christians must have strong convictions and never waver. The problem with convictions is that they are hard to live daily in a world that

opposes conviction. The beauty of multiculturalism is that it takes no conviction to live it. Such a person does not have to stand up or defend anything. One does not have to intellectually engage in any way. One can simply congratulate themselves for being on the broad way with so many others. A person can take pride in their tolerance and open-mindedness and never realize that they have become so open-minded that their brains have fallen out.

Fourth, they had CONFIDENCE. The Christian’s confidence comes from believing in the goodness of God and trusting in Him to take care of them. These friends tell Nebuchadnezzar that God can deliver them from the furnace, yet they made it clear that even if He did not, they still were not going to bow to the image. No matter the circumstance, the Christian trusts God and His goodness to take care of them.

Fifth, they had COURAGE. Simply saying that you believe in something is a long way from being willing to sacrifice your life for that belief. James called it faith with works. I am sure there was some fear in these friends, but they did not take counsel to act from fear. Instead, they acted from confident faith that gave them courage. We must work on our faith until we fear God more than we fear men (Matt. 10:28).

May each of us stand up like these when the world calls us to bow down to open-mindedness.

News Of Interest

Sick

Home: Glenn Carmack, and Donna Lackey (Cheryl Goode's sister).

Sympathy

To **Bennie Jacks** and **Jean Hindman** in the death of their nephew, Scott Kelley.

To **Pearl West** in the death of her brother, Orby Bennett, Jasper, Alabama.



Congratulations

To **Judy Deck** on the birth of her grandson, **Stetson Lee Deck**, born Saturday, March 18. Stetson weighed 7 Lbs., 13 ozs. The proud parents are **Stephen** and **Jessica Deck**.

Congratulations (continued)

To **Sam** and **Cindy Kachelman** on the birth of a grandson, **Evan Wiley**, weighing 7 lbs., 9 ozs., born Monday, March 20. The proud parents are **Joe** and **Bethany Kachelman**.



Balance Class

Tues., Mar 28; Thurs., Mar. 30; 1:30 p.m..

Pantry Item

Canned fruit

Today and Upcoming at Chase Park

Regency Retirement Service

Today: 1:30 p.m.

Speaker: **Dennis Lawson**

Song Leader **Jared Olbricht**

Hospital Visitation

Team #4 (**McCall**), please pick up your assignments following evening worship.

Children's Ministry Devotional

Today after evening worship, fellowship hall/dining room.

7th—12th Grade Devo tonight after p.m. services at the home of Eric and Hollye Corder.

\$Financial Peace Class\$

Tomorrow, 6:00—7:30 p.m.

Ladies Bible Class

Tuesday morning, March 28.

Super Seniors

Wednesday, March 29. No lunch.

Potluck Lunch

Friends Day, Sunday, April 2.

Library Books

The book, *Love Letters From John*, written by Dr. George Carman, is a devotional commentary exploring the many wonderful lessons found in the epistles of John. These epistles emphasize the deity of Christ, walking in the light, how to conquer our sin problems, the need to love our brothers and how to deal with false teachers.



Being Phoebe: How Women Served in Early Christianity, written by Steven C. Hunter has been placed in our library. The author has written a 13-lesson study about the many good works performed by women in both the Old and New Testaments in service and praise to God. This book can serve as encouragement to women in the church today in learning what they CAN do without going beyond the biblical restrictions placed upon them.

FRIENDS

Day

Sunday, April 2nd

Invite Someone!

Chase Park
CHURCH of CHRIST

Statistics

Sunday, March 19, 2017

AM Worship	368
Month Average	361
Bible Class	310
PM Worship	243
Wed., Mar. 22 Bible Classes	258
Regency Ret. Worship NC	
Offering	\$18,913.91
Budget	\$18,000
Average '17	\$17,989
Under Budget for year	-\$129.00
Building Fund	\$120.00

Services

Sunday

Worship..... 9:00 a.m.
 Bible Class 10:15 a.m.
 Worship.....5:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Super Seniors 10:00 a.m.
 Bible Class6:30 p.m.

Web Site Home Bible Studies

<https://www.epcofc.org/home-bible-studies>

(Lesson 1 Link)

The Bible—God’s Holy Word

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