

Lessons for The Day of Pentecost

May 19, 2024

Psalm 139:1–12 (13–16) ~ *A prayer of sincere self-examination, casting one's self on God's mercy.*

Ezekiel 37:1-14 ~ *In Ezekiel's vision, the Spirit of the Lord breathed new life into the dead hopes of Israel.*

Acts 2:1–21 ~ *The Holy Spirit enabled the apostles to speak the Gospel to people of many languages.*

John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15 ~ *The Holy Spirit bears witness about Jesus and empowers our witness to the truth.*

GATHERING THE TEXTS: Celebrate the Power of God's Life in Jesus.

The Jewish exiles in Babylon had given up hope of returning to Jerusalem, but Ezekiel proclaimed that God's renewing, life-restoring Spirit would give life to their dead hopes. Jesus promised to send the Spirit to bear witness to the truth in convicting the world of sin and restoring the sinner to righteousness through Christ. On the first Christian Pentecost the apostles, speaking in languages the Holy Spirit gave them, joyfully proclaimed the new life God had accomplished through Jesus. We rejoice in God's renewing power in our lives even today

PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE: Thanks and praise to you, O Lord, for the new life of the Spirit you have given to me and all believers in Christ Jesus. Give me power to share the joy of your gift of salvation with everyone I meet. Amen.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT: The Holy Spirit breathes new life even into our gifts as we use the goods of this world in ways that bring glory to God and sinners into His kingdom.

OFFERING PRAYER: Lord, when our offerings become like dried bones, parched by our grudging giving, breathe upon them with Your Spirit that they may come to life and be used to build Your kingdom through powerful words and deeds. Amen.

CONVICTION AND COMFORT: Left on our own we are overwhelmed by the task of telling people about God's redemptive action in Christ Jesus; we are like dry bones in the valleys of Israel. But God's new life in us, stirred by the power of the Spirit, leads us into the truth of his promises and empowers us to give faithful witness to God's all-abiding love in overcoming the power of death in us through Jesus our Savior.

Questions to Consider: What would it take to get you started on a project you have set aside?

OR What makes you give up on some projects and "put them on a shelf?"

- How were the Jewish exiles in Babylon like dry bones scattered on the valley floor?
- What was the purpose of the Spirit's gift to the Apostles on Pentecost?
- What is the Spirit's role in our conviction of sin? What does that affect our righteousness?
- What does the Holy Spirit do for us after convicting us of our sin and bringing us to faith?

(Bonus on page 2)

HYMN

SON OF MAN, THESE BONES ARE DRYING

Text: Ezekiel 37:1-10; Tune: LSB 924, Regent Square 87 87 87

Son of man, these bones are drying,
Bleached and chalky from the sun.
Son of man, my people, dying
In their sins; their hope is gone.
Speak my message, Speak my message:
Give them hope in Christ, my Son!

Son of man, these bones are rattling,
Joint to joint, and bone to bone.
Son of man, my people, gath'ring
Everywhere my Word is sown.
See my power, See my power,
While on earth my will is done!

Son of man, these bones are living,
Like a mighty army drawn.
Son of man, my people, giving
Powerful witness, all as one.
Grasp the mission, Grasp the mission,
While my Spirit moves you on!

– Gilbert A. Franke, Sept. 1995

DEVOTION **READ:** Ezekiel 37:1-14 and Acts 2:1-39

PENTECOST

*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the
excellencies of him who called you out of darkness
into his marvelous light. -- 1 Peter 2:9 .*^{ESV}

Four winds exhale from corners of the earth,
and gently blow a scattered people home –
from broken limbs, a body's given birth
with roots in Pontus, Phrygia, and Rome.

The breath of God comes hovering over bones
as dry as death and warms the moldy flesh.
As muscles tense, the stirring body moans,
and foreign tongues awaken, new and fresh!

From many nations gathered in this place
yet reaching round the world and living still,
the Holy Spirit forms a single race –
a royal priesthood called to do His will.

God's chosen people, holy in His sight,
declare His praise Who called them into light.

– Gilbert A Franke, 4/22/2009