

5. Read the Donald Barnhouse quote in the outline. How does his point speak to you?

SERIES: Kings & Prophets

SERMON 13: "God Pursues Us with New Life"

TEXT: Ezekiel 37:1-14

DATE: December 2/3, 2017

6. How is God's promise of regeneration better than a fresh start?

Preach to the Bones

Ezekiel 37:1-4,11

The dry bones represent _____.

"Dry bones"

"Cut off"

7. Read the Russell Moore quote in the outline. How should what he's saying impact our daily interactions with the people in our "mission field" at school, at work, or in our neighborhoods?

The Good News for Those Who Know They are Beyond Redeeming Themselves

1. It could be _____.

'If Satan took control of a city, all of the bars would be closed, pornography would be banished, and pristine streets would be filled with tidy pedestrians who smiled at each other. There would be no swearing. The children would say, "Yes, sir" and "No, ma'am," and the churches would be full every Sunday . . . churches where Christ is not preached.' (Donald Barnhouse)

Good, religious people are most likely to be _____ to their need for redemption by their own religiosity.

8. Looking back over this week's sermon and study, what one thing is most important for you to remember and apply?

2. You're not _____.

The Israelite exile is also a _____ for our exile from God and from Paradise.

We are all exiled from life and from God apart from his rescuing power. We all behave very badly. The person to your right and to your left is no better than you. And you can't claim to be better than Harvey Weinstein for one simple reason: you have no idea the carnage your bad behavior has caused because you can't know how far or how deeply the ripple effect of your bad behavior has impacted others.

3. God's promise is better than a fresh start; God's promise is _____.
Ezekiel 37:4-6; John 3

Spiritual regeneration isn't about getting to our _____ nature; it's about receiving a _____ nature.

In John 3, Jesus is talking about the basics of regeneration. But Nicodemus couldn't see his need. Nicodemus was blinded to his need for regeneration by his own _____.

"The next Billy Graham might be drunk right now. The next Jonathan Edwards might be the man driving in front of you with the Darwin Fish bumper decal. The next Charles Wesley might currently be a misogynistic, profanity-spewing hip-hop artist. The next Charles Spurgeon might be managing an abortion clinic today. The next Mother Teresa might be a heroin-addicted porn star this week. The next Augustine of Hippo might be a sexually promiscuous cult member right now, just like, come to think of it, the first Augustine of Hippo was. But the Spirit of God can turn all that around. And seems to delight to do so." (Russell Moore)

John 3: ¹⁶ For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. Ezekiel preaches the Word of God to the bones and God's Spirit gives them life. How does God bring new life to us through Christ?
2. How does it encourage you to know that even when we are spiritually dead, God still pursues us with the life that only he can bring?
3. Read the Russell Moore quote and discuss it's implications for your mission as a family.

CHRIST CONNECTION

God showed Ezekiel a valley of dry bones, which reminds us what we are like in our sinful condition. God gave Ezekiel a vision of the power of God bringing life out of death, a power on display most fully in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. What are some of the ways bad behavior (even the everyday variety kind) extends beyond that moment and ripples out to effect others?
3. Read Ezekiel 37:1-4,11. What were the Israelites saying about themselves and their predicament in verse 11?
4. The Israelites were living in exile and they had received word that Jerusalem and the temple had been razed to the ground. How is their exile a metaphor for our exile from Paradise?

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Why should we obey God?