



What Has Happened To You?

Ezekiel 37

- 1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones,
- 2 And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry.
- 3 And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest.
- 4 Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.
- 5 Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:
- 6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.
- 7 So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.
- 8 And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them.
- 9 Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.
- 10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.
- 11 Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.
- 12 Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.
- 13 And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,
- 14 And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.

I want to preach just a short while about “What Has Happened to You.”

There have probably been times when people have asked you this question...

What Has Happened to You?

There have probably been times when you have asked somebody else this question...

What Has Happened to You?

Maybe when somebody has gotten a hair-cut...

Maybe when somebody has gotten a real bad sun-burn...

Maybe when somebody has lost a bunch of weight...

Or if you’re not really careful what you say...maybe it’s when somebody has gained a bunch of weight...

There was a man that told me of an embarrassing moment in his life...When he went up to a lady he knew, and seen her tummy poking out, and he said, “Oh, I didn’t know you were pregnant again!”

...and the lady said, "I'm not!"

Yeah...That would be embarrassing.

But, we say this sometimes...

What Has Happened to you?

We say that whenever something has changed about somebody.

We see them, but they are different than the last time we saw them.

And we say...What Has Happened To You?

And, do you know that when somebody gets born-again...they ought to inspire this question in somebody's mind...What Has Happened to You?

When you come up from that altar, you shouldn't be the same...

...you shouldn't act the same...

...you shouldn't have the same thoughts...

If Something Really Happened...You should be changed!

And, people ought to say, "What Has Happened to You?"

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Now, I want us to look at this story that we find in Ezekiel Chapter 37...

Let's just start reading there at verse 1...

1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones,

2 And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry.

I read this a long time ago, and I thought as I was reading this... "Lord, you must have taken him out to one of the churches I've been in."

Oh...Maybe you haven't been to those...

Where you can hear a pin drop...even right in the middle of the sermon...

The people are so dead that the message in the music don't excite them...

the testimonies don't excite them...

the words of encouragement don't encourage them...

and they sure don't care anything about the Word, so the preaching

of the Gospel don't get them going...

I ain't trying to run nobody down, but the truth is that They Are about as Lively as a Bunch of Dead Dry Bones.

I've said this before, and I'm gonna say it again tonight...Don't you ever let them say that kind of stuff about us...

If they don't understand why we're so happy, just give them a while...They'll catch on...but, Don't you slow down while they're catching on!

It'll be fine if they leave here saying, "Those people are wild!"

It'll be fine if they leave here saying, "My Goodness, they sure do worship different!"

It'll be fine if they leave here saying, "Those people are sort-of peculiar!"

That's Fine!

But, Do God a big favor...

Don't ever let somebody leave here saying "My Goodness...What a Dead Dry group that was!"

## Hey! There's plenty of those to pick from...

God's not looking for any more benchwarmers.

God's not looking for any more part-timers.

God's not looking for any more analyzers.

God's not looking for any more doubters.

God is looking for somebody that comes in expecting and leaves rejoicing.

God is looking for somebody that comes in hoping and leaves shouting.

God is looking for somebody that comes in believing and leaves receiving.

God don't need any more Dead Dry Saints filling up Dead Dry Churches!

God needs somebody that has had an experience that has changed them, and they know What Has Happened To Them.

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3 And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest.

I like the way Ezekiel answered...

O Lord GOD, thou knowest.

Wouldn't we be a whole lot better off if we would answer like Ezekiel did.

The Lord says, "Can these bones live?"

And we say, "Not these Lord, they don't even come to church, but about once a month..."

"Can these bones live?"

And we say, "Probably not these Lord... You know they don't know as much about the Bible as I do."

"Can these bones live?"

And we say, "Lord, I'm optimistic about a lot of things...but, have you not heard the reputation he's got?".....  
"...have you not heard the reputation she's got?"

We walk around and look at folks like we're some kind of spiritual super-hero, and we judge them:

by their past...

by their education...

by their current status in life...

by their financial standing...

by their families reputation...

GOD HELP US!

What right have we got to judge anybody else?

Oh, I know everybody is shaking their heads and agreeing with me right now...but, you think about it and see if you

haven't been the same way...

When's the last time you looked down at somebody?

When's the last time you crossed somebody off the list of potentials?

My Lord church...Don't you remember that you were as lousy as anybody at one time?

## **Don't you remember what a dirty, rotten scoundrel you were?**

And people would have crossed you off too...but God didn't!

## **He Changed You...**

Something Happened & You need to remember WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU!!!

I'm not qualified to see down deep inside them...but, O Lord God, Thou Knowest.

I can't see all the potential inside them...but, O Lord God, Thou Knowest.

I don't know what all you have in store for them...but, O Lord God, Thou Knowest.

All I can see is how many times they've messed up...

how much they've done wrong...

and the question is "can these bones live"...

All I can see is that they're dead and dry, but I say with Ezekiel, O Lord God, Thou Knowest.

Now, start at verse 4 and let's see what happened...

4 Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

Realize first of all, that the word of the Lord told him to speak to these bones.

How silly he must have felt walking out there and speaking to a huge pile of bones.

Let me just break here for a second and ask you a question...

Have you ever felt sort-of silly doing something that God told you to?

If you haven't, then I'm gonna go out on a limb here and say that you've probably not done everything the Lord has told you to.

There are times when God needs somebody that ain't ashamed to step out and do something that seems peculiar to humans.

There are times when God needs somebody that ain't ashamed to do something that they don't completely understand.

But, we're control freaks...

We have to know when, where, with who, how, and why, before we'll think twice about putting ourselves in that kind of position.

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If we're being real honest about things...There has been a time when God said, I want you to step out of your pew and go over there and pray with Sister So&So.

I want you to get out of your seat and go down to the altar and pray with that boy.

I want you to go give them a \$10 bill.

I want you to call her and pray with her on the phone...

Something like that...and we think about it & think about it until we convince ourselves that surely that wasn't God, because He would have told us why He wanted us to do that...

NO! No!

That's not true...

I want you to know this...

God will put you in a place to do something for Him, and He might not tell you why.

But, that don't relieve you from duty.

You need to be sensitive to the Spirit, and let God speak to you.

But, when He does...don't ask a lot of questions...Just Do It!

You don't have to understand Why... Step right out there and Just Do It!

God loves it when you hear from Him, and you Just Do It!

And that's what Ezekiel had to do...

...because it don't make sense to a human to start preaching to a heap of bones.

But, that's what God said to do.

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5 Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:  
6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

Now, we know it's hard to step out and do something whenever it seems silly to us...but, let me tell you something else that adds to how hard it is...

When it's something that never has happened before.

See...It's easy to believe for things that are easily accomplished, but when you start talking about raising the dead, and healing cancer, and rectifying marriages that seem to be falling apart, then it gets a little more difficult, don't it?

But think about what Ezekiel has to do here...Ezekiel has to step out there and start preaching to a pile of bones, and the message that he came with was this... "According to the Word of the Lord, you dead bones are going to live again! You are going to be joined back together with each other...the cartilage is going to be put back on you...skin is cover you...and you are going to begin to breathe again!"

I say, according to the Lord, you bones are going to Live Again!"

Ezekiel did just what God told him to...He stepped out there with his King James Bible, and with the power of God backing him, he bowed his back and said, "HEY BONES...Listen up...You're gonna live again!"

You know...we've got to develop the mind-frame that goes along with Mark 10:27 where Jesus said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible...."

We've got to have the attitude that Paul had when he said, "...for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him..." (2 Timothy 1:12)

## **And that's exactly what Ezekiel did...**

It didn't seem possible to him...but he knew that anything was possible for God.

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So, he just did it...

Verse 7...

7 So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.

8 And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them.

9 Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.

10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

Let me tell you something church...

When God says to do something, and you step out and do it...You don't have to worry about God holding up his end of the bargain...

You won't find it anywhere in the scriptures that the Lord left anybody hanging.

And furthermore, you won't find it anywhere since then.

God won't ask you to do something, and then turn around and run off and leave you.

(That means something to somebody here tonight...Some of you are supposed to be doing some things...and you're sort-of shying away from them, because it don't look very feasible to you...)

I said...God won't ask you to do something, and then turn around and run off and leave you.

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But, now look at verse 11...

11 Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.

12 Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

13 And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,

14 And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.

Now...Listen to what happened...

## **Those bones said...we are dry...we are hopeless...we are cut off...**

I wonder if anybody here has ever felt like that...

But the Lord said I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

13 And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,

14 And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.

He said, You shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves...

You shall know that I am the Lord, when I bring you up out of your graves...

You shall know that I am the Lord, when I put my spirit in you...

You shall know that I am the Lord, when I give you new life...

## **Do you know what God was really saying???**

God was saying...

You shall know that I am the Lord, when You remember What Has Happened To You!!

You shall know that I am the Lord, when You remember What Has Happened To You!!!

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It is a constant challenge for us to Remember what God has done in our lives.

...to remember who God is...

...and to remember What Has Happened to Us.

I'll tell you...We knock some of the other denominational groups because they act like they can live anyway they want, and still trot right into Heaven, but I hate to say it, but some of us act the same way...

...and I wonder if some of us have gotten to the point where we don't think it really matters how we live either.

We dress how we want to.

We talk how we want to.

We tell jokes we shouldn't be telling.

We listen to things we shouldn't be listening to.

We have a worse attitude than most of the worldly people we're around.

Well???

Let me preach right here for just a minute.

We talk about everybody in the church.

We talk about our neighbors.

We cheat on our taxes.

Some of you women have a haughty attitude towards your husbands, and just because you don't agree with his decision in something, you want to run it down & run your mouth all day long instead of supporting his decision.

Some of us men throw everything off on our wives, and expect them to take care of it all...the housework, the kids, the cooking, the cleaning, the washing...You say, "That's a woman's job" Listen, you were part of creating it, you're supposed to be part of taking care of it...That goes for the kids & the messy house too.

I believe some of us have got a lifetime subscription to Gossipers-R-Us.

And I mean, every time a cricket jumps backwards, we think we've got to meddle in that crickets business, and make sure everybody knows that he jumped backwards.

Some of you are looking at me and trying to act like you don't know what I'm talking about...

You Know what I'm Talking About.

And, by the way, the guilty dog barks 1st, so I wouldn't get up & go out right now if I were you.

OK...maybe I've missed it...Maybe there's none in this church, but in some other Pentecostal churches, there is this attitude that I can live however I want to and God won't mind...He'll understand.

Yeah! He Understands Alright...

He understands that you've forgot about Him.

They have a sorry attitude.

They're rude to others.

We look down on people.

We think that person has tried & failed so many times, They're never gonna make it.

You know what the problem is?

You've forgot What happened to You!

I'll bet it took you more than one trip to get the Holy Ghost.

I'll bet you had to try more than once to drop that habit.

I'll bet you tried more than once to straighten up.

## **So, Why in the world are we looking down on others?**

**There's only one explanation...**

We've forgot What Happened To Us.

We look at others...But it's different with them...Right?

I mean, they've been acting like that for a long time, and they won't straighten up.

Give me a break...You acted like that for a long time too.

I'm about to bust a lot of peoples bubbles here...

...and I might even get a dirty letter or 2...

One of the most disturbing things I see happening in this world that we live in, is when you see kids having kids.

They're getting younger & younger all the time.

Young teenagers getting pregnant all the time & having babies.

And the result of that is that we have kids raising kids.

And they don't know what they're doing...and lots of times the young mothers don't have anybody to help them, and the result is the kid has to teach itself how to live, how to act...

...basically we are starting to see a lot of kids who have had to teach themselves how to survive in this world.

But, That Does Not Work!

And we're seeing the effects on society today.

We want to always say that kids are changing so much in the world today...And that's true...

...but, have you ever stopped and thought about the fact that the parents have to change before the kids can change?

But, something equally as disturbing is that this same thing is happening in our churches.

What?

Yeah, That's Right.

We look around and wonder why the younger ones in the church are not progressing like they should...I'll tell you why...

Because they don't have anybody that is dedicated to teaching them.

Why are spiritual babies never growing up?

**Because they don't have any spiritual parents!**

When is the last time that you went over to a young person or somebody young in the Lord, and said, "Come On...Let's go to the altar and pray."???

Listen...You better not get your feelings hurt by a young Christian & throw your nose up in the air, & make up this theory that you can quit trying.

You better remember that it took you a while to come around...

It took you more than one sermon...

It took you more than one trip to the altar,

and it may take them a while too.

Those people that prayed for you & prayed with you, & they stuck with you no matter how hard a time you were giving them...You better thank God for them...

And not only that, but you better be glad they didn't give up on you...and that God didn't give up on you...because even though it took a while, Something Happened To You

You better Remember What Happened To You!

Because the youngsters of today are depending on you to be the same way!

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If you're gonna get mad...you're probably already there...so I'm gonna go ahead and preach the truth...

I'm worried about Revival in our churches today.

Why?

Because, even the older ones are turning into this breed of people that expects it to be automatic or nothing.

Revival is not going to happen automatically...It happens in an atmosphere of understanding.

You ain't gonna force anybody to get the Holy Ghost.

You ain't gonna force anybody to change their attitude.

You ain't gonna force anybody to change their lifestyle.

But, If you could just remember What Happened To You, then you would be patient, & you would work with them until they were completely changed by the Power of God.

That's what Revival is all about...It's about saints growing...saints being renewed...and sinners finding Jesus.

Revival is not something that happens a week every year...It's something that should be in the air all the time.

Now, I didn't say that we have to swing from the chandeliers every minute of every service, and every Bible Study.

I said Revival is something that needs to be in the air all the time.

The evangelist don't bring the Revival...

He helps us maintain the Revival atmosphere, but he can't bring it.

What does it take to have revival?

It takes an understanding of What God has done for you.

It's not the programs...The programs are nice, but it's mot the programs.

The songs are great, but it's not the songs.

It's not even the preaching...

See...You can have all the programs...the best songs & singers in the world...and you can have the most eloquent, most prepared, most prayed-up preacher in the United States...

...but if that church body don't have an understanding of What Has Happened To Them...then it's all just gonna be a good show with a few chill bumps.

Church...I've come tonight simply to remind somebody of What Has Happened To You.

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### Closing:

As I look at these scriptures, and I think about how amazing it was...

How that God brought new life into something that was completely dead.

How that something was completely hopeless, but God made a way.

And I look at that, and it starts to ring a bell...

Because when I think about those bones...If I think back real hard, I can picture myself as being one of those bones...

When I think about what God did in those bones...If I think back, I can remember that God did a very similar work in my life.

When I think about those dead bones beginning to rattle around, and them coming back together...If I think about my situation, I can relate to those bones, because God had to pick up the scattered pieces of my life one day and begin to put them back together.

The Lord said, You shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves...

You shall know that I am the Lord, when I bring you up out of your graves...

You shall know that I am the Lord, when I put my spirit in you...

You shall know that I am the Lord, when I give you new life...

God was saying...

You shall know that I am the Lord, when You remember What Has Happened To You.

I wonder if anybody here remembers it tonight.

I wonder if anybody remembers how bad things were before Jesus stepped in.

I wonder if anybody remembers how hopeless it was before Jesus cam in.

Do you remember that you were weak, but God made you strong?

Do you remember that you were blind, but God made you to see?

Above all else...Don't you remember that you were Lost, but now you are Found?

You ought to be praising Him right now...

Don't you remember that about 2,000 years ago, there was a God that loved you before you were even born...

...loved you so much that He came to earth robed in human flesh...emptied Himself of His glory...and then was mocked, ridiculed, beaten, and ultimately nailed to a cross...

"Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission."

Jesus took our place in shedding His blood.

And, because He did that, He made it possible for you & me to be able to go down to an altar of repentance & begin to walk in newness of life!

He paid for your sins!

He paid for my sins!

You need to remember What Has Happened to You Church!

Somebody needs to get a fresh remembrance of How It all went Down.

Somebody needs to get it back in your head what a miracle it was.

Don't you remember how sweet it was when the Lord forgave you?

Wasn't it so sweet to have the burdens lifted off of you?

### **Don't you remember what it was like to be Baptized in His name?**

Don't you remember what it was like when He filled you with His Spirit?

You were bound, but now you're free.

You were trapped, but now you're loose.

You were going to burn in Hell, but now you're going to live in Heaven forever!

Don't you Remember?

Don't you remember What Has Happened To You?