

1. God isn't afraid to _____ things.

2. God isn't afraid to _____ things.

3. Some people only speak to _____ about _____.

4. Some people only speak to _____ about _____.

5. Culture changers speak to _____ about _____.

6. 5 qualities of a church filled with Bone Whisperers

1. God isn't afraid to see hard things.
 - a. When we read verse 1, we expect it to end in the land of butterflies and rainbows.
 - i. But it ended in the middle of a valley, not on top of a mountain.
 - ii. Battles aren't won on the mountain (1 Sam. 17:3)
 - iii. Cultures aren't changed from a high, removed vantage point
 - b. Not only was it bad, but God made sure Ezekiel saw the full extent of the situation
 - i. "Led me back and forth"
 - ii. We don't typically do that.
 - iii. Get hurt? Don't let anyone see it?
 - iv. My chipped tooth - maybe it will get better if I ignore it.
 - v. God doesn't ask you to stop looking at hard things
 1. Rom. 4:18ff
 2. Abraham "faced the fact" - still believed
 - vi. When we're hoping, our faith is fragile and bad details can shake it
 - vii. When we're trusting, our faith can't be shaken in the worst situations

2. God isn't afraid to ask hard things.
 - a. If nothing else, God wants us to know that He's Lord of the Elephants
 - b. He's not afraid to actually ask questions that probe the hard topics we want to ignore
 - c. Notice the question
 - i. Not "can bones live?"
 - ii. Can THESE bones live?
 1. The bones you're close to
 2. The ones you see, not the ones in another valley
 3. Can your valley live?
 - d. We don't need to just believe that what's dead can come to life. God wants to know if we believe that the dead we're close to can come to life.
 - e. It's a whole new ballgame when God asks us if our rebellious daughter can live.

3. Some people only speak to culture about culture.
 - a. Don't you love people who tell you what you know?
 - b. The church has become good at telling the culture what they already know.
 - c. Ezekiel simply says "dry bones"
 - d. He didn't go on and on about them, pointing at each one of them and screaming red-faced, "You're dead! You're dead! You just lie around and don't do anything to honor your Creator! Dead bones! Dead, dry bones!"
 - e. Many never make it past this point, and they have zero influence.
 - f. We're called to speak about more than just their condition (Col. 4:5-6)

4. Some people only speak to culture about God.
 - a. Verse 7 tells us that Ezekiel did speak to the bones, but verses 5-6 tell us what he said.
 - b. He told them about the plans of God for them
 - c. He spoke with boldness and faith
 - i. 6 times he used the word "will"

- ii. He wasn't hoping. He was trusting.
 - iii. Isaiah 55:11
 - d. Speaking to a dead culture about God has an impact
 - i. Ezekiel heard a noise - bones rattling
 - ii. He saw dry bones become dead men
 - iii. That would have been a good day, but it wasn't enough
 - e. Speaking to a dead culture can transform an empty arena into seats filled with movement, but life doesn't come until we take one last step
- 5. Culture changers speak to God about culture.
 - a. Verse 9 is clear that Ezekiel had to turn the conversation vertically
 - b. We can do a lot of things that result in a lot of activity, but it is the breath of God that transforms activity into an army. (v. 11)
 - c. Bone Whisperers stand in the middle of what is and what is coming
 - d. They seem strange because they speak God's words of life into every situation
 - e. They are more than just positive people; they are positioned people
 - f. What is the proof that God is God?
 - i. Not activity, even when it's good.
 - ii. Simply dead people being undeniably alive!
- 6. When we become bone whisperers, we can expect a church with 5 qualities:
 - a. Full of the Spirit
 - b. Full of living people
 - c. Settled ("in your own land") - comfortable in our place
 - d. Deeply confident in God's word
 - e. Marked by completion