

March 26, 2023 – 5th Sunday in Lent

Rattle!
[Ezekiel 37:1-14](#)

He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.”
–Ezekiel 37: 3-4

Depression, hopelessness, bitterness, apathy? Substance use disorder and addiction? Children in need of food, shelter, and unconditional love? Churches in decline? What ‘dry bones’ do you see in our communities, our churches, and our own personal lives?

As I read this passage in Ezekiel, I thought of the song by Elevation Worship called *Rattle!* The song details what the power of God can do to ‘dry bones.’

Even as people of God, we sometimes need reminded that nothing is impossible with God. We serve, praise and follow a Living God who saves, delivers, heals, and restores. So why do we often feel helpless when faced with overwhelming situations?

If the “dry bones” of our modern world started to rattle, what would that look like?

I’m envisioning family and friends overcoming depression and anxiety. I see bounty for neighbors in need who currently have limited funds for warm, clean, dry housing.

Families impacted by substance abuse rising above those challenges, finding success in recovery, and being made whole again. Children no longer hungry, but learning and laughing instead.

And churches in need of new life starting to flourish with new programs in new places for new people... making disciples for the transformation of the world!

As this Lenten season continues, let us all seek to rattle these ‘dry bones’ around us. What can we do?

Pray – Miracles big and small still happen, but we need to ask!

Listen – God will show us the way in making the impossible happen around us, if we are open to experiencing those nudges.

Act – Follow the inspiration provided by the Holy Spirit to do what is needed in order to make our communities, our churches, our families, our friends, and ourselves truly thrive.

Let’s not fear what’s to come, but instead, let’s be ready to embrace it. The dry bones of our world need us. It’s time to start the rattle!

Prayer: *Gracious and Loving God, we know nothing is impossible with you, the one who performs miracle after miracle. Indeed, hope is never lost when we call upon you. Prepare, equip, lead, and guide us as you rattle the dry bones that surround us. Please walk with us through this journey as it can sometimes be scary and overwhelming. Show us where we are most needed in order to make the greatest impact. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.*

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P.S. Google the song Rattle! and take a listen sometime – I’m confident you’ll be glad you did!