

Can these Bones Live – 17 Oct 2004

- Joshua Daniel

Ezekiel chapter 37, I am sure many of you know this passage.

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 to me, son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, oh Lord God, Thou knowest.

Son of man, can these bones live? You know my dear friends; a double minded man is unstable in all his ways. If there is anything which requires a very single eye, it is the pursuit of the Lord Jesus. Meaning, of course, when you pursue the lord Jesus you are living in revival. That's it. You don't consciously do a lot of things but your being there or saying something which you hardly realize that you had said produces blessing. That is, when your focus is on the lord Jesus Christ. Here is an answer which is non-committal and I can see how the devil is working on us in such a way that we are getting non-committal. Here was a definite question. Can these dry bones live? What do we answer? Can god cause his spirit to move upon this whole island and by moving upon this island, do we envisage such a thing, are we persistent in such a plea? You know, we are non-committal. I wonder what a pastor would do ,when he asks the question; will you have this woman to be lawful wedded wife? and the man scratches his head or ear and says I think so! Well, I would tell the fellow you should have thought all about it earlier. This is not the time to be still thinking. You go home and settle the matter and we will talk about the marriage. We can't be still thinking you know. Can these dry bones live? In spite of the mass of evidence, I am talking about myself here; which I have seen from my childhood, of the mighty hand of god moving in strange places ,in new ways and employing a variety of people. Not always the acclaimed and the renowned. In spite of all that evidence, I find my faith to be very poor. I

am ashamed, you pray for me please. Because the challenges I face are constantly getting bigger and bigger. I don't want to fail my lord. But I see that faith is under attack today. The devil does not want you to have a faith that does not quake or quiver. He wants you to be tentative; he wants you to not commit yourself fully. You know a pastor said to me "this church is blamed as a church which expects commitment". I said, what? Oh we are decried as a church that expects commitment. I was preaching in the place and there were many things that needed to be addressed. We were praying for revival in their midst. Some of that area had already experienced revival; I said in the midst of all this, are you blamed, because you expect commitment? Who is it that expects commitment? It's the lord Jesus. A very definitive kind of commitment, isn't it my friends? He that will be my disciple let him deny himself, take up the cross daily and follow me. Where is there ambiguity there? There is no ambiguity. Well if you want to be my disciple, you are not going to be saying yes to self and by taking up your cross. This ,Jesus was telling his disciples before he carried the cross. They all knew that it was a symbol of execution, of cruel execution, but the lord Jesus Christ said, you need to carry the cross daily. Sometimes in our willfulness to have our wishes countered, very hard. We don't like to give-up our will. If everybody is willing to have his will trampled on, there would not be any divorce courts. We don't want somebody to tell us what to do. We don't want to admit, well, we are wrong. That is self. But when the lord Jesus Christ identified himself with Joshua Daniel, could he get any lower? Just think of yourself, your thoughts, your thought life and say did Jesus Christ really identify himself with me? Could he come that low? Could he bear such defilement? Could he take my vileness totally? Yes, he did. And should it not produce commitment? He took my sin, he took my vileness and should it not produce a commitment? Something which is in keeping, gratitude and commitment. You know commitment comes most naturally, not grudgingly, and yet ,when we are talking about the gospel. The gospel is an empty eggshell, if it is not to be seen in your life. And the world reckons it as an empty egg shell. Because they say we don't see. You know I met people who told me, a boy said, May I come and sit next to you? I said, yes, and here he was, one of the students there, oh ,he said to me; after hearing me for some time he said "we don't see Christians like this". I said, surely you have got a Christian group of some sort

there. Oh, I have not seen any. Some of us regularly go to bed with our girlfriends. Ok friends, the universities are reeking with filth. And those are to be the leaders the judges, the MPs, the rulers of the country. At such a time we are not able to hold any standards within the church. And commitment is loft out of doors, out of court. He that will be my disciple let him deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow the organization. No, not at all. Follow me. Very simple, very direct and very beautiful. You ask any sports person, any athlete, Hey, what do you want to do? You are a sprinter, what do you want to do? You know, I want to clip 2 or 3 seconds of my record. Boy! You can't clip 2 or 3 seconds of your record today. Because it looks like we are almost at the limits of human endurance when it comes to sport. Now, when you look at Christians, ah they are trying to clip anything out. No. Plain No. They are just looking round for some weaker person on whom they can look and say hey I am better than the other fellow. That's about all the yard stick they have. Follow me. A very definite yard stick. Whom do I follow? I follow Jesus. Then, do I look like Jesus? Do I act like Jesus? Do I think like Jesus? Do I exercise a faith which is comparable to my lord Jesus? That's all. It's very simple. So I know I come short of the glory of God. My life needs continual amendment and cleansing. So my dear friends, when we see this non-committal reply it seems like we are right in that place. Where we say, Yes lord ,you know, of course he does. But what about what you think? Son of man, Can these bones live?