***Ezekiel 37:5-8 Thus says the Lord God to these bones: “Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. 6I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the Lord.” 7So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. 8Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them.***

Last week, we were with Ezekiel, as God placed him in the midst of the valley of dry bones. We realized that we have all been dry bones in a valley, crying out for God’s deliverance, for His refreshing and living water to come and revive us. We ended last week with Ezekiel prophesying to the dry bones, saying “hear the word of the Lord”. Remember Ezekiel didn’t stumble across this valley, but the hand of the Lord was upon him and the Spirit of the Lord carried him, setting him in the midst. When we have the hand of the Lord on us, and the Spirit of the Living God dwelling within us, God will take us to the middle of the valley, and the valley is often one we’re very familiar with, one we understand because of the life God brought us out of. Very seldom do we find the people living on the mountain top high open to hearing the life changing, spirit filled word of the Living God… the view is too good, the living too easy. No, the person desperate to hear the word of the Lord, to meet His precious Son, and to cling to the Hope only He offers is found right in the middle of that valley of dry bones.

This week, we hear what Ezekiel says to these dry bones. Stretching as far as the eye can see – Verse 5 - *Thus says the Lord God to these bones: “Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live.* When we look at the words – surely, I will cause – this holds the idea of it already waiting to come to pass. In Gen 2:7, it says - *And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.* God breathed and man became of living being. Without breath there is no life. God formed man, but man was not alive until God breathed. There are many today walking around in the form of man and the form of woman, but God has not breathed on them yet, they have not received the Spirit of the living God. They are not spiritually alive, but worldly dead. Are we willing to speak the Word of Life and Breath over those we find in the valley? See, many have no compassion on those in the valley.

Verse 6 *I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the Lord.* Notice that God equips, before He enlivens. God gives everything that is needed, before He breathes life. Likewise, God equips us with all we need to go in the Spirit and do His will. He first gives and then He sends. God equips before the equipment is needed. His arm is not shortened, His hand is not weak. When Jesus commissioned His disciples in John 20: 21-22, we read - *So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.* People know God when God breathes and they live, not before. *Put breath in you, and you shall live, and* ***THEN*** *you shall know that I am the Lord.* This tells us not be upset with the bones we find in the valley that have not received the breath yet. Instead, be glad we’re called to speak.

Verse 7 *So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone****.*** I prophesied, I spoke the Truth, as I was commanded. Not a suggestion.Ezekiel obediently speaks and, while he is yet speaking, noise, rattling. God moves. Bones come together, but not willy-nilly. The right bone came to the right bone. Not one bone is misplaced. Things come together perfectly when we do as we are called.

Verse 8 *Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them.* It happens just as God promised. Sinew, flesh, skin… No breath. This is true in Ezekiel’s valley, and this is true in the valleys we serve in. Sometimes, we see improvement, health, it seems that the person is coming out of the valley, but then they’re back in the valley… why? Because they never accepted the Breath of God. If the breath never comes in this valley, the skin, flesh, and sinew will return to dust, the bones will fall apart and dry out again. It’s the breath that brings life and relationship with God thru Jesus.

In Luke 17, we find a story of Jesus healing 10 lepers. 10 were cleansed, 1 came back to glorify God and submit to Jesus. 9 were only cleansed. 1 was made whole… by the breath, we are made whole. Acts 1:5 Jesus said - *for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.* It’s not about the sinew, the flesh, and the skin. It’s about the Spirit, the Breath, the Son of the Living God. Have we received Him?

This week, we’re still asking to be placed in the midst of the valley where we can minister to those that need the Truth of Jesus. Mountaintop highs don’t lend themselves to life changing lows. What is the valley God is leading you to and how might you minister to others? God will send His breath, but first they must hear the word. May Jesus lead us to speak the Word boldly to someone in the valley who needs His healing Spirit today?