

March 9, 2008 "Bone Dry" - Rev. Sandi Rice

- Story of Lazarus -
John 11:1-45
Ezekiel 37:1-14
- Lazarus was a man from the village of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. He became sick and died. Mary called to Jesus. Jesus said his sickness would not end in death. Jesus told Ezekiel to prophesy to the bones. Speaking to dead, dry bones was a metaphor for prophesying to people who were spiritually dead (the whole house of Israel). The exiles had no hope, no spark of faith. On another level, it may also illustrate the spiritual needs of Israel just before the return of Christ. Ezekiel, in a huge demonstration of faith, did as Jesus instructed. Lazarus had been dead four days, and was brought back to life.
- No matter how hard things are, no matter how "dry" your spirit is, with God, all things are possible.
- Sometimes we feel empty, we ask ourselves if we will ever "be like we once were", etc. We get hurt, disillusioned. "Where is God during all this?", we ask.
- It's not about our timing or our agenda – Jesus will let us know when it is time. Just like Lazarus emerging from the tomb. Wait for the miracle.
- You are not alone – don't believe the lie that it's your fault.
- We have to let Jesus help us be free – we have to be unbound. Let go of baggage.
- Reminds me of the prayer:
"God, I give myself to thee, to build with me and to do with me as thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of thy power, thy love, and thy way of life. May I do thy will always."