

For 29/3/20

Passion Sunday

Some musings on Ezekiel 37 1-14 and John 11 1-45

Both the Old Testament and Gospel readings for this Sunday describe a very very unpromising start turned into an unbelievably positive end.

A valley littered with skeletons, bones all over the place. Ezekiel the prophet surveys the scene and asks God if there is potential in the situation.

**“Can these bones live ?”**

God calls Ezekiel to prophesy to the bones that they we live.  
We don't know what Ezekiel actually felt in this situation. He might have expected failure. But he obeys God's command and the bones are clothed in flesh but still lifeless.

Ezekiel obeys another command to to call on the breath to come from the four winds.

**The bones live.**

Israel is at that time at rock-bottom. But God promises to restore Israel to their homeland to put them back where they should be.

Ezekiel obeyed God and the **impossible** happened.

Our Gospel starts with a grave situation but this time

Lazarus is not yet dead and Jesus states that he will not die.  
Having said this He dwells a little longer where He is.  
But then word reached him that Lazarus **has** died.

Still Jesus insists there is Hope.  
He says that Lazarus will rise.  
Now the family were his close friends. He hadn't particularly hurried to get there.  
But Martha's emotion gets through to Him.

**He weeps.**

He asks Martha if she believes in Him .  
He affirms that those who believe in Him will not die.

He goes in to Lazarus, calls to Lazarus and Lazarus walks out despite having died and his corpse showing signs of decomposition. The body had even started to smell.

Maybe this was a predictor of what would happen after His death.  
Certainly His words forecast Eternal life for all believers. Again a complete turn around from what appeared hopeless.

Jesus promised Eternal Life.

**Everyone who believes in Me will never die**

That promise is there for you and for me.