



## SERMON NOTES

# SURGE

## Miracle In The Mess

Pastor Carl Toti  
April 23-24, 2016

### **Psalm 137:1, 4 (NIV)**

*1 By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. 4 How can we sing the songs of the LORD while in a foreign land?*

### **Ezekiel 37:11b (MEV)**

*"Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost. We are cut off completely" (Tanakh: "[we are] doomed"; NJB: "done for"; NLT: "finished").*

## 1. THE MESS

### **Ezekiel 37:1-3 (NLT)**

*<sup>1</sup> The LORD took hold of me, and I was carried away by the Spirit of the LORD to a valley filled with bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me all around among the bones that covered the valley floor. They were scattered everywhere across the ground and were completely dried out. <sup>3</sup> Then he asked me, "Son of man, can these bones become living people again?" "O Sovereign LORD," I replied, "you alone know the answer to that."*

God's difficult question—

*<sup>3</sup> He said to me, "Mortal man (human, son of dust), can these bones live?" I replied, "Sovereign LORD, only you can answer that!"*

## 2. THE MESSAGE

### **Ezekiel 37:4-6 (NLT)**

*<sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Speak a prophetic message to these bones and say, 'Dry bones, listen to the word of the LORD!' <sup>5</sup> This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Look! I am going to put breath into you and make you live again! <sup>6</sup> I will put flesh and muscles on you and cover you with skin. I will put breath into you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD."*

### **Isaiah 55:11 (NKJV)**

*So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*

### **Romans 12:6 (NKJV)**

*Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;*

### **1 Corinthians 14:3 (NCV)**

*But those who prophesy are speaking to people to give them strength, encouragement, and comfort.*

### 3. THE MIRACLE

#### ***Ezekiel 37:7-10 (NLT)***

*<sup>7</sup> So I spoke this message, just as he told me. Suddenly as I spoke, there was a rattling noise all across the valley. The bones of each body came together and attached themselves as complete skeletons. <sup>8</sup> Then as I watched, muscles and flesh formed over the bones. Then skin formed to cover their bodies, but they still had no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, “Speak a prophetic message to the winds, son of man. Speak a prophetic message and say, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, O breath, from the four winds! Breathe into these dead bodies so they may live again.’” <sup>10</sup> So I spoke the message as he commanded me, and breath came into their bodies. They all came to life and stood up on their feet—a great army.*

D. A. Carson, *For the Love of God—*  
Ties Ezekiel’s prophesy with Paul’s letter to the Ephesians

“[In Ephesians] we find Paul insisting that his readers “no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking” (Eph. 4:17). He ties this “futility” to their ignorance of God on the one hand, and to their disgusting conduct on the other. “You, however, did not come to know Christ that way” (Eph. 4:20). You were “created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness” (Eph. 4:24). That means “put[ting] off” the old self, and being “made new in the attitude of your minds” and “put[ting] on” the new self (Eph. 4:22–24).

The Apostle Paul’s frank and practical talk from Ephesians 4.

1. Truthful speech—“for we are all members of one body” (Eph. 4:25), -and a practical commitment to let no day end in anger, lest the devil be given a foothold (Eph. 4:26–27).
2. Converted thieves must steal no more. They must work, doing something useful, learning to be generous with what they earn (Eph. 4:28).
3. Our talk must not only eliminate what is blasphemous, vulgar, or “unwholesome,” but must learn to utter “what is helpful for building others up according to their needs” (Eph. 4:29).
4. Comprehensively: “Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.
5. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you” (Eph. 4:31–32).