Breathe #3 “Breathe on Me” John 20: 19-23

**Tell the Story of Ezekiel 37: 1-14**

* Ezekiel was God’s prophet to the Exiles… Valley of Bones.
* Very many and Very Dry… Walked all around…
* Can these bones live again?

O Lord God, You know = Sounds like a trick question.

* Preach to them… Thus saith the LORD, I will cause breathe to enter you that you may come to life…
* Noise, bones, sinews, flesh and skin… No breath!
* Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these dead, that they might have life! Great Army!
* ***I will put My Spirit within you and you will come to life!***

**Note**: ***Breath*** = *Wind* = **Spirit** (OT and NT Vocabulary)

***Breathe***: Take a Breath to **Reflect, Rest and Refocus**

**Psalm 150** – We Breathe to Praise Him

 Genesis 2:7; Let everything that has breath, Praise the Lord!

John 20 – The Lord give us Breath; and, He gives us the Holy Spirit.

**John 20: 19-23** – The Crown of the Lord’s appearances on Easter Day.

READ with Comments

**Vs. 19** “the Jews” = the religious leaders in Jerusalem

 “the disciples” = Apostles only? Others included...Luke

 ***Peace*** = standard greeting, but much more to this fearful flock

 ***In Me you can have peace. In the world, trouble,***

***I have overcome the world!***

**Jesus Sends Us on a Serious Mission.**

**Vs. 21** – Sent like Jesus is Sent… Same compassion;

 Same authority; Same assurance of Victory…

 Same Mission to Proclaim Good News and Seek Lost!

**Vs. 23** – A matter of Life and Death… forgiveness or NOT.

 No man has power to forgive and retain sins…Proclaim Gospel.

***We promise forgiveness in Christ; and warn that there is no forgiveness apart form Christ.***

***HEAVY!!***

**t/s** – Our Focus Today

**Jesus Gives Us the Holy Spirit.** (22)

**Exp** – John is calling to mind **Genesis 2:7** and **Ezekiel 37**

(same word in LXX and only here in NT))

 ***Symbolic Act*** that will be fulfilled on Pentecost!

 The Risen Lord will keep the Promise to Give the Spirit!

 When you hear “***Breathe***”; think of His gift of Life and Spirit!

**ILL** - MacLaren piles up images to describe the Spirit

* Stack wood on the Altar but fire from heaven
* Build a factory for production but steam in pipes
* All the machinery in the Mill but no water in the wheel

**App** – Do not Understand the Gospel Promise without Spirit Within!

 John 1 – He will give you the Holy spirit!

***The Lord Gives us the Holy Spirit!***

**Vs. 22** – “***Receive***” – He gives, we receive… Exhale & Inhale.

**He Gives Us Life through the Holy Spirit.** (True for Church)

**Exp** – We are that valley of Dry bones without the Holy Spirit.

**ILL** – First sermon was on a Wednesday… Zechariah 4

 Improbable task of rebuilding the temple

 ***Not by might, nor by power; but by My Spirit says the LORD***

**App** - All is Vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down.

 ***Reflect*** and Give thanks for the Spirit’s Work.

 ***Rest*** in the Spirit’s power and presence; ***Refocus***…

**The Lord Gives You Life in the Holy Spirit.**

**Exp** – The Christian Life is Life in the Spirit.

 We need men and women who walk in the Spirit; Filled by Spirit

**ILL** – Act 6 – church was stressed because of Growth… murmuring.

 We need leaders who are ***filled with the Spirit***!

 Not plans and programs… Spirit-filled Leaders!

**App** – *Holy Spirit Breathe on me, fill me with power divine;*

 *Kindle a flame of love and zeal within this heart of mine.*

**Conclusion**: *We were dead in our trespasses and sins.*

 Gospel promises New Life in the Spirit.

Gospel is not rules to keep, meeting to attend, stuff to know.

***Good News of New Life in the power of the Spirit.***

* Believe in His death and resurrection (20)
* Call Him Lord (20)
* Receive New Life in the Spirit!

Prayer and Invitation to Come Breathe on Me