

The Trumpet Call

Messages and Reports Dec. '05 – Jan. '06 Evangelist Edgar Martin

MERRY HEARTS OR DRY BONES?

“A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones.”—Prov. 17:22 “A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of the heart, the spirit is broken.”—Prov. 15:13

It is refreshing to enjoy the fellowship of those who have merry hearts. We enjoy their cheerful dispositions, bright faces, and warm smiles. They do us good, like medicine. On the other hand, how sad it is to see someone with a sorrowful heart and a broken spirit. It is as if their bones are drying up and death has begun for them. A merry heart is much better than dry bones! A merry heart and a cheerful countenance are like medicine to those around us. But what is a merry heart? How do we achieve it and keep it?

Upon our first impression of this wise proverb, we see the value and the power of human cheerfulness. Wholesome entertainment can provide an emotional relief. Humorous stories told with smiles and laughter can certainly lift the spirits of the discouraged. In fact, a wholesome sense of humor has been shown to aid in healing the sick and the sorrowful. These things are helpful, but as we meditate over this passage, we begin to sense a deeper and more powerful message of truth. We begin to see the heavenly source and holy purpose of a merry heart and the seriousness of dry bones. It is God's happiness from heaven, which will defeat Satan's misery from hell.

The tragic condition, which threatens to destroy fallen man and seal his eternal doom, is not simply human sorrow or the breaking of his spirit. We face here, the bitter and ugly scene of the perishing soul, dying without God! The “dry bones” speaks of souls dying without the Savior. A “broken Spirit” is more than a broken will. It is the eternal spirit of a man whose sins have separated him from the Spirit of God. That broken spirit is lost and beyond repair! Real sorrow of heart comes from the awesome realization of eternal doom. The unbearable sorrow of the soul is to face hell without a Savior! To be struck down by the disease of sin without God's healing balm for the soul.

We must pray for the healing balm of Gilead to pour over the dry bones and broken spirits of the lost souls about us. If our faces are bright with the light of heaven, and our countenances are cheerful with the joy of our salvation, we will have light and life to share! We will have a heart, merry with the mercies of God, that will do good like medicine. It is “not by might nor by power, (that help will come) but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts” (Zec. 4:6).

God's life givers must be filled with the power of His Spirit. God gave Ezekiel a vision of a valley full of dry bones. Through the power of God's Spirit they came to life again as

Ezekiel prophesied over them. God did not tell Ezekiel to make merry, to laugh, or even to sing, jump or shout. He told Ezekiel to preach and to prophesy upon these bones and say to them, “thus says the Lord God . . .you shall live!” (Eze. 37: 5). The Spirit of God breathed upon the slain and they lived! When men rise from the bone yards of sin to life everlasting, then all Heaven rejoices with a merry heart! The heart that is merry with heaven’s holiness will shine with holy happiness. This is God’s healing medicine for dry bones!

The Trumpet Call is a quarterly paper with an inspirational message to encourage and inspire the heart. Herald of Hope is a non-profit 501c (3) donation-based ministry.

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