

Sermon Take-home
for a sermon by the Rt. Rev. Thomas L. Kline

Lessons: Ezekiel 37: 1-10; John 3; AC 149

The Valley of Dry Bones

(Ezekiel 37: 1-10)

1) Hear the Word of the Lord

- a) Look for a new direction in your life, inspired by the Lord.
- b) Seeing that, turn your life over to the Lord.
- c) Strive for trust and confidence in the Lord God our Savior Jesus Christ. (TCR 344)

2) There will be a noise and rattling

- a) When proceeding in a new direction, expect periods of spiritual anxiety and temptation, and then focus on the inmost peace promised throughout this time. (AC 3696)

3) Things will begin to come together

- a) Vertically: Your lower, external thoughts and feelings will begin to unite with your new inner spiritual life. (TCR 11)
- b) Horizontally: Look for your thoughts and feelings being united - the marriage of good and truth. (TCR 248)

4) Flesh and muscles appear

- a) You take action – and the Lord gives you a heart of flesh in place of the heart of stone. (Ezekiel 36:26; TCR 60)

5) Skin covers them

- a) Realize that your mind and life are taking on a truly human form. (HH 73,77)

6) You receive the breath of life from the Lord

- a) “Breathe” and take the time to “Watch and pray” – becoming aware of new spiritual life flowing in from the Lord. (Matthew 26:41)

7) You will stand on your own two feet, part of a great army, ready to fight in the name of the Lord

- a) Stand on your feet and be part of a great army, ready to fight in the name of the Lord. (AC 510)
- 1) AC 3696 [2] Something very similar to this occurs with the new life with one who is being regenerated. At first he experiences a state of serenity, but as he moves on into the new life so he moves into a state that is not serene. For evils and falsities which he has taken into himself previously now emerge and show themselves, and these trouble him, so much so at length that he undergoes temptations and trials from the devil's crew who try all the time to destroy his state of new life. But despite this a state of peace exists with him inmosty. But for its presence inmosty he would not put up any fight at all, for in all the conflicts he experiences he sees that state as the end in view. If that end were not in view he would never have the power and strength to fight. And this is also what enables him to overcome.

AC 149

[2] Man's proprium when viewed from heaven looks just like something bony, lifeless, and utterly misshapen, and so in itself something dead. But once it has received life from the Lord it appears as something having flesh. For man's proprium is something altogether dead, though it has the appearance to him of being something; indeed it appears to be everything. Whatever is living within him comes from the Lord's life; and if this were to leave him, he would fall down dead as a stone. For he is purely an organ of life, though the nature of the organ determines that of the life-affection. The Lord alone possesses Proprium. By His Proprium He has redeemed man and by His Proprium saves him. The Lord's Proprium is Life, and from His Proprium man's proprium, which in itself is dead, is given life. The Lord's Proprium was also meant by His words in Luke,

A spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see Me have. Luke 24:39, 40.