



Grain

“Hope is being able to see that there is light despite the darkness. We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.”

–The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Field

2He said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. 2And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. 3He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. 4The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, “Thus says the Lord GOD.” 5Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

Ezekiel 2:1-5

Thoughts

Why bother talking if no one is listening? That’s a valid question. Sometimes the healthy answer is to pause from or stop trying to communicate when people don’t seem to hear us. Ezekiel is called into a situation in which it is unlikely that anyone will want to receive him. Why bother? So that in the midst of all the rebellion against God, the spirit working through Ezekiel will touch upon the buried word of God within the people and they will “know that there has been a prophet among them.” It’s a step we may understand from our own experiences of someone’s words or presence revealing a forgotten truth within us.

Ezekiel speaks words of hope to people cut off from their land feeling hopeless, helpless, and in a crisis of faith. Angry rebellion against God was part of the order of the day. Where was God in all of this? But the spirit of God was present and persisted. Spirit in Hebrew is *ruah*, which also means breath and wind. The same word for spirit in verse 2 from today’s lesson is the word for breath in Ezekiel 37:5: “5 Thus says the Lord God to these bones: ‘Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live.’” The spirit energizes. It invokes new life and courage.

Having hope within dismal situations in the present or when we fear a more unjust future takes courage. Sometimes I have courage, but not always. The spirit of God helps us to tap into our boldness and inner advocate and eases us into rest as we realize we are not strong on our own.

May the spirit of God revive us and help us to offer a word of hope and healing to one another even when our realization of the power of a message is not immediate. We may later look back and say, “The spirit of God worked through that person.” The wind of God also moves through us. Happy Monday!

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy