

Wake Up and Dream!

#4 – Ezekiel

Ezekiel 37

1. Listen carefully.
Ezekiel 37:1a
Nahum 1:7

2. Be available.
Ezekiel 37:1b
Psalm 34:18
Psalm 23:1-4

3. Expect resistance.
Ezekiel 37:2-3
Matthew 19:26
Mark 9:23
Mark 10:27

4. Stay determined.
Ezekiel 37:4

Charley Reeb (Preaching Magazine), *A big shift in preaching is the move from rhetorical, oratorical, and preachy sermons to more conversational style of delivery. However, the downside of this shift is that many preachers don't feel comfortable preaching with conviction. They are so concerned with appearing casual and non-threatening that they are terrified to passionately declare the truth in God's word. We must be sensitive to listeners. However, I have discovered that listeners become even more engaged when you preach with passion and boldness. People are hungering for genuine expressions of truth, not preachers wearing skinny jeans sitting on stools trying desperately to appear trendy. Most of your listeners are also not looking to be impressed with your knowledge of the Bible. They have not shown up for a lecture. They want you to speak from your heart to their hearts. The absence of bold and passionate proclamation is one of the main culprits to the decline of the mainline church. You can have a balanced faith and preach with conviction, so throw your head back and let it fly. Who knows? You may spark a revival in the mainline church.*