
Revival of Unity (The Power of Agreement)

Revive Us Again

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Sermon: Revive Us Again: Revival of Unity (The Power of Agreement)

Lesson Text

Ezekiel 37:15–20 (KJV)¹⁵ The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying, ¹⁶Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and *for* all the house of Israel his companions: ¹⁷ And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand. ¹⁸ And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou *meanest* by these? ¹⁹ Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which *is* in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, *even* with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand. ²⁰ And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes.

Matthew 18:19–20 (KJV)¹⁹ **Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.** ²⁰ **For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.**

Introduction

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In a year where we will Rebuild, Revive, and Restore, so far, we have looked at the Revival of the Valley, the Dry Bones, The Four Winds, and the Graveyard of Dead Places.

Last week we told you to Open Your Graves by Faith, Come Forth Out of Your Grave by Works, and Leave Your Graves by Embracing God's Plan for your future.

Today we will look at Reviving Our Unity.

In our second lesson text, Jesus speaks to the Power of Agreement that comes through Unity. First it causes God to move on their behalf, and Second, Jesus joins in with that agreement.

The Power of Agreement can be summed up by the statement, **"The Whole is Greater than the Sum of its Parts."** An expression attributed to philosopher Aristotle, aptly defines the modern concept of synergy. It represents the acronym T.E.A.M., together everyone achieves more.

But someone figured out that they could raid a company and sell it off for its parts. The modern term for these people is "Corporate Raiders." They are financiers who make a practice of making hostile takeover bids to either control a company, or resell them for profit.

The way the corporate raiders make a profit is to break up the company and sell it for its individual parts. Now it may make a profit for the raider, but the company is left worse off, many times having to lay off people or sell assets because of the corporate raid!

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We've had corporate raiders who have invaded our families, our friendships, our marriages, our ministries, our churches with division convincing us that we're better apart; but after we have sold us off for parts, the only one getting a profit is the enemy.

To devastate our unity and destroy our power of agreement, the enemy uses the tools of division, separation, discard, and disagreement.

One of the reasons why the Nation of Israel was living a life of dead dry bones in a valley is because they had lost their Unity, their Power of Agreement.

In 975 B.C., the Nation of Israel was torn apart, splitting into two Kingdoms (1 Kings 11:31-35); the Tribes of Judah & Benjamin became the Southern Kingdom. And the other 10 tribes identified as Joseph in the hand of Ephraim became the Northern Kingdom.

Israel had a corporate raider of sin and wickedness that caused Judah (which represents Praise) to be sold off for parts from its brother Joseph (which represents Favor). And although they still existed apart, they lost something, which was their power!

But God gave Ezekiel a word and promised that the two kingdoms, torn apart, would be reunited into one; not only getting back their Praise and their Favor, but combining them would give them back their Power.

And today, you may have lost your joy and feel abandoned and lost, but there is a word of prophecy for you, and that is you're getting your joy back, you're getting your favor back, and you're getting your power back.

Series and Sermon: Revive Us Again: Revival of Unity (The Power of Agreement)

"The Revival of Praise, The Revival of Favor, and the Revival of Power"

I. The Revival of Praise (Unity of Judah)

Ezekiel 37: ¹⁶ Moreover, thou son of man, **take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions:** then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and *for* all the house of Israel his companions:

The first thing we saw raided from Israel was the tribe of Judah which means "Praise!"

In Genesis 29 when God saw that Leah was hated and gave her 4 children, the 4th of which she named Judah and said now will I praise the Lord.

But because they that hate us without a cause are more than the hair on our head (Psalm 69:4), this constant stream of hate can tear apart our unity and devastate our happiness and joy.

"Don't let the raiders sell off your Praise!"

I know we say, "I'll be alright," "I can do bad all by myself;" in the words of Whitney Houston, "It's not right, but it's ok, I'm going to make it anyway. Pack your bags up and leave, I would rather be alone than unhappy!"

But in reality, when we lose a part of ourselves, it negatively impacts the part of us that's left.

As part of my Healing & Restoration Bootcamp, I teach that when something or someone has been taken away from us (a relationship, possession, dream, friendship, career, passion...), although it may not be a physical death, we can experience the same grief as death.

When a part of us has been raided and sold off for parts we go through the 5 Stages of Grief (Denial, Anger, Bargaining, Depression, and Acceptance); this devastates our happiness!

- Ephesians 4: ²⁶ Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:
- John 12: ²⁷ **Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.**
- Psalm 22: ¹ My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? *why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?* ² O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent.

God does not keep us from the grief of loss, but he does protect us from the devastation of loss.

The corporate raider may have taken your happiness, but he can't destroy your joy!

Psalm 30: ⁵ For his anger *endureth but* a moment; in his favour *is* life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy *cometh* in the morning.

"Don't let the raiders sell off your Praise, revive it to get your joy back!"

Psalm 22: ³ But thou *art* holy, *O thou* that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

Hebrews 13: ¹⁵ By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.

Psalm 27: ⁵ For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. ⁶ And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.

Psalm 5: ¹¹ But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.

Luke 6: ²³ **Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward *is* great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.**

II. The Revival of Favor (Unity of Joseph)

Ezekiel 37: ¹⁶ Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: **then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions:**

The next thing we saw raided from Israel was Joseph which means "Favor!"

In Genesis 37, Joseph, Jacob's favored son, was nearly killed and ultimately sold into slavery by his jealous brothers.

Perhaps one of the main reasons we experience the breakdown of unity is jealousy and envy.

“Don't let the raiders sell off your Favor. ”

Whereas hatred can have no cause, jealousy stems from divine favor. People can be so jealous of you that they want to destroy you, but what they are really jealous of is God's favor on you.

Proverbs 14:30 (GNB)30 Peace of mind makes the body healthy, but jealousy is like a cancer.

Galatians 5: ²⁶ Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

“Don't let the raiders sell off your Favor, revive it to get your blessings!”

Genesis 50: ²⁰ But as for you, ye thought evil against me; *but* God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as *it is* this day, to save much people alive.

Proverbs 10: ²² The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

Psalms 37: ¹ Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.

Psalms 66: ¹² Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water: but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy *place*.

Psalms 37: ¹ Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. ² For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. ³ Trust in the LORD, and do good; *so* shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. ⁴ Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. ⁵ Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass.

III. The Revival of Power (Unity of Praise & Favor)

Ezekiel 37: ¹⁹ Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, **I will take the stick of Joseph**, which *is* in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, **even with the stick of Judah**, and make them one stick, **and they shall be one in mine hand**.

- Don't Let Hate Sell off Your Praise
- Don't Let Jealousy Sell off Your Favor
- Don't Let Division Sell off Your Power

Psalms 30: ⁵ For his anger *endureth but* a moment; **in his favour is life**: weeping may endure for a night, **but joy cometh in the morning**.

The enemy uses division to separate our Favor from our Praise because he knows that together they give us power.

There is Power in Praise and there is Power in Favor, but when they are in agreement, there is Supernatural Power in Agreement.

Matthew 18: ¹⁹ Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Romans 15: ¹ We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

Ecclesiastes 4: ⁹ Two *are* better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. ¹⁰ For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him *that is* alone when he falleth; for *he hath* not another to help him up. ¹¹ Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm *alone*? ¹² And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Power of Agreement: To pick each other up, to warm each other up, and to back each other up.

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Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Revival of Unity (The Power of Agreement))

Lesson Text

- Ezekiel 37:15–20, Matthew 18:19–20

Sermon Outline (Notes)

- I. The Revival of Praise (Unity of Judah)*
- II. The Revival of Favor (Unity of Joseph)*
- III. The Revival of Power (Unity of Praise & Favor)*

Questions (What was your main takeaway from Sunday's Sermon?)

I. Getting to Know "Me"

1. Aside from the Bible, what was the last book you read?
2. What is your personal theme/word for 2023?

II. Into the Bible

1. Read John 17:20-23 and answer the following questions: a) In verse 20, what does "their word" refer to? b) What do you understand Jesus to mean when he says "The glory that you have given me I have given to them" (verse 22)? c) When you read verses 21 and 23, what do you see as Christ's desired result of believers' oneness?
2. How does our unity as believers testify to the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ?

III. Life Application

1. What has been your behavior when "corporate raiders" sold off your praise and favor? How did you revive your joy and blessings? Share your testimony with your growth group members.
2. What advice can you offer someone who is experiencing grief of loss? Are there any scriptures you can share to encourage them?