

Bay City Wesleyan Church
March 22, 2020

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Sunday Morning 03-22-2020

HOLY LOVE'S HEALING POWER transforms us as we own our need for it.
<http://bible.com/events/7138217>

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Psalms 95:1-2 MSG

<small>1-2</small> Come, let's shout praises to God, raise the roof for the Rock who saved us! Let's march into his presence singing praises, lifting the rafters with our hymns!
<https://bible.com/bible/97/psa.95.1-2.MSG>

Ezekiel 37:1-10 NLT

<small>1</small> The Lord took hold of me, and I was carried away by the Spirit of the Lord to a valley filled with bones. <small>2</small> He led me all around among the bones that covered the valley floor. They were scattered everywhere across the ground and were completely dried out. <small>3</small> Then he asked me, "Son of man, can these bones become living people again?" "O Sovereign Lord," I replied, "you alone know the answer to that." <small>4</small> Then he said to me, "Speak a prophetic message to these bones and say, 'Dry bones, listen to the word of the Lord! <small>5</small> This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Look! I am going to put breath into you and make you live again! <small>6</small> I will put flesh and muscles on you and cover you with skin. I will put breath into you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'" <small>7</small> So I spoke this message, just as he told me. Suddenly as I spoke, there was a rattling noise all across the valley. The bones of each body came together and attached themselves as complete skeletons. <small>8</small> Then as I watched, muscles and flesh formed over the bones. Then skin formed to cover their bodies, but they still had no breath in them. <small>9</small> Then he said to me, "Speak a prophetic message to the winds, son of man. Speak a prophetic message and say, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, O breath, from the four winds! Breathe into these dead bodies so they may live again.'" <small>10</small> So I spoke the message as he commanded me, and breath came into their bodies. They all came to life and stood up on their feet—a great army.
<https://bible.com/bible/116/ezk.37.1-10.NLT>

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In a society where substance abuse spreads like wildfire, few of us are untouched by addiction. We may not have the classic "loud" addictions of alcohol, drugs, sex or porn, but most of us fall into the trap of the more dangerous and devious ones. Our relationship to food, work, or success, for example, can serve the same purpose as oxycodone for a drug addict. Under each of these desires gone wild is the godly longing for the goodness and restoration that Jesus has in store for us. We need to own this yearning for holy love to experience its healing liberation.

A quick review and summary of what we've learned so far.

God's holy love is inconceivable. It's beyond explanation and expression. But his holy love can be experienced. We can receive it. The business of experiencing and learning to practice Jesus's holy love is our lifelong task.

The final goal of following Jesus is that his love will motivate and shape everything we do.

The chains of falsehood can be broken when you bravely confess your hurts, habits, and hang-ups to fellow followers of Jesus. Choose these people carefully and look for persons committed to speaking the truth in love.

Jesus's holy love holds hands with his holy anger.

Broken humans tend to relate to others with a parasite's mindset - "give me what you have" or a predator's mindset - "let me own, control and abuse you with what I have." The Holy Spirit can transform parasites and predators into God's generous kids with a partner's mindset - "let me help you with what I have." In other words, grace generates generosity in God's kids.

Ephesians 4:29-30 NIV

29</small> Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. 30</small> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

<https://bible.com/bible/111/eph.4.29-30.NIV>

Sermon in a Sentence:

Left alone, our speech is poisonous;
but with the Holy Spirit, our speech becomes health-giving.

We need to abandon toxic talk and pursue nourishing speech.