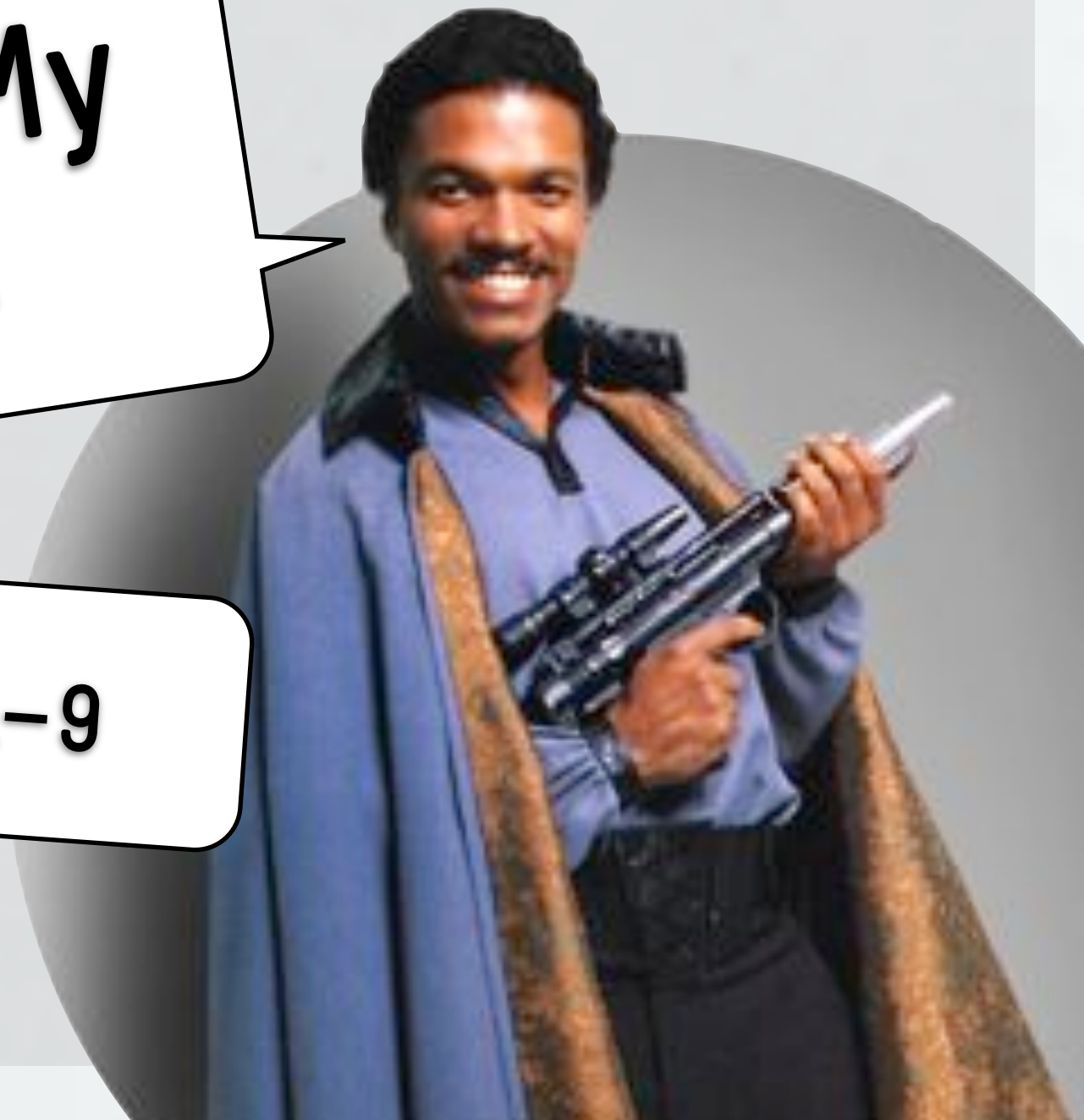


**THE THINGS WE SAY:
It's Not My
Fault!**

ACTS 3:1-9



Sunday, 7 April 13

The Power of Free Will The Power of Choice

Sunday, 7 April 13

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

God has given us the
power to make choices.

Sunday, 7 April 13

Temptation is there, but we have the power to choose. And in this case, choose to listen. Do we listen to God, or do we listen to Satan. Do we hold to a truth, or do we listen to a lie. Do we act on our desires, or do we act on faith.

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

But we, from the
beginning of time, have
been afraid of failing.
And the consequences
of bad decisions.

The Pressure of Failure
The Fear of the Wrong Choice



Sunday, 7 April 13

we have the power to choose. and so we often have a great responsibility. And in particular, amongst Christians, we feel this weight of responsibility so heavily.

What should I do? If I do something wrong?
Will God still love me if I do something wrong?
What will happen to me?

Our recovery from sin begins when we are willing to **"own our stories"**; in other words, when each one of us is willing to say: **"I did that"** or **"I take responsibility for what I did."**

–Lewis Smedes

We have great
responsibility.
But God's grace and
love is even greater.

21 The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. 22 And the Lord God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.”

Genesis 3:21–22

Sunday, 7 April 13

God is still gracious. EVEN after what we'd done.

Knowing that we are
alive in God's grace,
gives us **BOLDNESS**
to live for Him.

Sunday, 7 April 13

a culture of blame. Adam blamed Eve. Eve blamed the Snake.

37 The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. 2 And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. 3 And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” 4 Then he said to me, “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.

Ezekiel 37

5 Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.
6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

Ezekiel 37

7 So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. 8 And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. 9 Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” 10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Ezekiel 37

11 Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.’ 12 Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel.

Ezekiel 37

Sunday, 7 April 13

it's a time of hopelessness.

where bad decisions in the past had now brought the israelites to exile.

is there still hope for them?

has God abandoned them forever?

13 And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. 14 And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.”

Ezekiel 37

Sunday, 7 April 13

this miracle of the dry bones is hope that God's grace extends to his people. and that Spirit – that promised spirit in this passage. It is the Spirit that God has given us today.

This valley of dry bones used to be an army, and God is raising us up to be His people. In other words. LIVE!! Don't live in fear, but live in Life.

Don't live in fear.
Live ALIVE!
God's Spirit Lives!

Don't Be Afraid.
God's Grace COMPELS
us to righteousness!

For God has not given us a
spirit of fear and timidity, but
of power, love, and
self-discipline.

2 Timothy 1:7

Sunday, 7 April 13

My Soul. Letting God take care of my soul again.

We live at the wrong pace. Let God Nurture your soul, and trust in His ways.

1. Step into His Arms of Grace
2. Let Him Breathe Life
3. Step Out In Faith

Sunday, 7 April 13

1. receive his forgiveness
2. receive his Spirit
3. Make choices in Faith!