

I didn't catch that.. so easy to listen but not hear. The servant had to receive the message more than once before the bones came together because Israel as a nation had forgotten how to listen to God and hear Him speaking.

In the gospel we have pen pictures of people who managed to hear and got the message wrong. The sisters Mary and Martha sent a message to Jesus but expected him to respond quickly. When we pray we often expect an instant answer and are disappointed when there is no immediate response. The disciples were also puzzled. but it was an opportunity for some wonderful teaching. Sunday by Sunday we listen to the scriptures being read, but do we hear the message for us. It was Paul who in the epistles unwrapped the message and set out to help the new Christians shake off their heathen background and enjoy their new experience of knowing their sins forgiven by Jesus. This was the message the early Christians shared with friends and family and so the church grew.

The raising was a visual aid to help the disciples understand the resurrection. Lazarus had new life after his experience, what celebrations there must have been.. Israel came back into their special relationship with God which so much of the Old Testament spells out. The raising of Lazarus and many other events are often in paintings and provide questions in quiz shows and University Challenge was one recently.

Where do we fit in, are we excited by our faith looking forward to hearing what we can learn each week. We sing brother sister let me be as Christ to you.. It is a good place to start.