

A Watchman
Ezekiel 2-3

January 26, 2020
Grace Bible Church

Introduction: One of the oldest and most relevant questions in Scripture: "Am I my brother's keeper?" The answer from Genesis 4 is _____.

- What do I owe the _____? "I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome." (Romans 1:14-15)
- What do I owe my fellow believer? Love enough to speak the _____.
(Romans 13:8) (James 5:19-20)
- Ezekiel will be tasked to proclaim a message of judgment to the _____ (chs 12-24)
- Ezekiel will be tasked to proclaim a message of judgment to and on the _____ (chs. 25-32)
- Ezekiel will preach a message of _____ to Israel, the nations and all of creation (chapter 34-38)
- A proper proclamation of the gospel includes the announcement of _____.
(John 5:24)
- In many ways Ezekiel chapters 1-3 is the _____ of the OT.
- In Chapter 1 Ezekiel bows to _____
- In chapter 2-3 Ezekiel stands to _____.

Key thought: Every follower of Jesus has been called to _____ others with the gospel. How has God equipped us to do this?

- I. He has _____ us. There are two parts of a calling:
 - A. A deeper understanding of God- a new view of God. In chapter 1 Ezekiel learned
 1. God's glory was with him in Babylon, not in the temple in Jerusalem
 2. God was king of heaven, king of earth, and king of Israel
 3. God is compassionate
 4. In Chapter 2,3 Ezekiel learns he has a task.
 - B. The task ahead. Question How would this apply to me?
 1. You have seen God in Christ- as you follow Christ you learn God more deeply.
"Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." (John 14:21)
 2. You have heard God's commands,
 - a) One we have in common with all humanity- the Cultural Mandate Gen 1:26ff
 - b) One we we have as followers of Jesus- the Great Commission. Mt. 28:18-20/
Acts 1:8
- II. He has _____ us through the Spirit. Acts 1:8 Ezekiel could not even stand up without the Spirit's empowerment.
 - A. The Holy Spirit is essential because we are _____.
 1. Weakness revealed in fear-there will be pain. (Ezekiel 2:6)
 2. Weakness revealed in the temptation to join instead of confront. (Ezekiel 2:8)
 3. Weakness revealed in the struggle for wholehearted obedience. (Ezekiel 3:14-15)
God has turned this man's life upside down. Everything he has planned for, hoped for was no longer. He was struggling to make sense of it all. There is nothing wrong with the struggle to obey and come to terms with God's will.
 - B. The Holy Spirit is essential because the task is _____.
One could argue impossible apart of the Spirit's empowerment. Ezekiel is told to speak to a people who will refuse to listen.(2:1-7; 3:4-7) Ezekiel is being sent to.

1. _____ (2:3) From God's perspective, it was a story of constant disloyalty to the God of their covenant and salvation.
2. _____ (2:4–5) Ezekiel describes Israel as an ungovernable family, drawing on the picture provided by the law regarding the stubborn, rebellious and incorrigible son in Deuteronomy 21:18–21.
3. _____ (3:4–7) The point being made here is that [the language] barrier is far easier to overcome than the mental and spiritual block for which the biblical term is 'hardness of heart'. The prophet and his public share the same language, concepts, traditions, and history, but his words to them will be unable to surmount that barrier. As often in the Bible, the stubbornness of God's own people is a far worse problem than the ignorance of 'foreigners' or pagans.
4. The people we are called to reach are not _____. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth." (Romans 1:18)

- III. He has given us the _____.
- A. We must consume the message. (2 Timothy 3:15–17)
 - B. We must be consumed by the message. Ezekiel had to endure three difficulties given his calling. This is how God's Lordship would be revealed in his life.
 1. He was confined to his home
 2. He would be bound with cords But why is the prophet thus constrained? On the one hand, his bonds bind him even more closely to the exiles, for whom "bondage" was a typical image of their fate (Isa. 49:9; 61:1). On the other hand, it serves as a real restriction on his proclamation. He may not go where he wishes to go or speak what he wishes to speak. There is no room in his life for any spirit of independence or for any involvement with lesser tasks. He is entirely shut up to his fate as God's mouthpiece, proclaiming as a watchman the warning of impending judgment, but unable in any way to avert it
 3. He was told not to speak unless he was speaking God's words.
 4. This was the cross he would bear for God's glory
 - C. The message must be communicated because it is a matter of life and death.
- IV. He has clearly described our _____.
- A. Two groups the wicked and the righteous-the difference how they respond to God's word.
 - B. Other's response is not our responsibility.

Conclusion: God has prepared us to be his witnesses.

Are you too sinful?

Jesus came to save sinners!

Are you too helpless?

Jesus saves with His power!

Are you too filthy?

Jesus robes you in righteousness!

Are you too empty?

Jesus fills you with life!

Stop looking at yourself, cling to Jesus! Dustin Bengé