

Ezekiel: A Call to Be Responsible

Ezekiel 2:4-7 – *The descendants also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God.' And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that a prophet has been among them. And you, son of man, be not afraid of them, nor be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns are with you and you sit on scorpions. Be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house. And you shall speak my words to them, whether they hear or refuse to hear, for they are a rebellious house.*

Ezekiel's call was unique and personal. God doesn't hesitate to give His servants _____ . What did Ezekiel know about God's invitation?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Ezekiel knew that the hand of God was on him (Ezek. 2:22), and he knew how to worship. Worship is our _____ to God's _____. As Ezekiel obeyed God's leadership, he testified, "*So I rose and went out into the valley, and behold, the glory of the Lord stood there, like the glory that I had seen by the Chebar canal, and I fell on my face*" (Ezek. 2:23). It's _____ to experience God's presence and glory and stay the same! Worship isn't _____! It's _____!

The sovereign design of Ezekiel's ministry is repeated throughout the book. God said, "*And they shall know that I am the Lord*" (Ezek. 5:13).

Ezekiel had a front row seat to see God at work. God promised that the people would experience _____, _____, _____, and _____. In Ezek. 11:19-20, God declared, "*And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.*"

A call to ministry (and all believers have been called!) comes with a serious _____. God called Ezekiel to be a "watchman for the house of Israel." A watchman was responsible to _____ and _____. In Ezek. 33:7-9, God said, "*So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way,*

and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul. A watchman needed to grasp the impending situation and sound the warning. How does the role of "watchman" apply to you and me?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

One of the toughest assignments in the Bible was Nathan's call to confront David. David was God's choice as king. However, God doesn't ignore sin. God sent Ezekiel to prophecy against the shepherds of Israel. It's one thing to speak a word of _____. It's another matter to speak a word of _____. In Ezek. 34:1-6, God said, "The word of the Lord came to me: "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord God: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep. The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them. So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts. My sheep were scattered; they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. My sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with none to search or seek for them." How should shepherds live and serve?

- Live _____
- Teach God's _____
- Love God's _____
- Serve the _____
- Reclaim the _____

A verse that should sting the hearts of pastors and church leaders is Ezek. 34:10. God said, "Behold, I am against the shepherds."

Are _____ and _____ possible in our day? Ezekiel reminds us that God can revive what seems lifeless and revitalize what seems dead. In Ezek. 37:10, he declared, "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."

Ephesians 3:20-21 – Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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Ezekiel 2:4-7 – *The descendants also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God.' And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that a prophet has been among them. And you, son of man, be not afraid of them, nor be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns are with you and you sit on scorpions. Be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house. And you shall speak my words to them, whether they hear or refuse to hear, for they are a rebellious house.*

Ezekiel's call was unique and personal. God doesn't hesitate to give His servants **tough assignments**. What did Ezekiel know about God's invitation?

- **Called**
- **Sent**
- **Equipped**
- **Prepared**
- **Accountable**
- **Overwhelmed**

Ezekiel knew that the hand of God was on him (Ezek. 2:22), and he knew how to worship. Worship is our **response** to God's **revelation**. As Ezekiel obeyed God's leadership, he testified, "*So I rose and went out into the valley, and behold, the glory of the Lord stood there, like the glory that I had seen by the Chebar canal, and I fell on my face*" (Ezek. 2:23). It's **impossible** to experience God's presence and glory and stay the same! Worship isn't **boring**! It's **transformational**!

The sovereign design of Ezekiel's ministry is repeated throughout the book. God said, "*And they shall know that I am the Lord*" (Ezek. 5:13).

Ezekiel had a front row seat to see God at work. God promised that the people would experience **unity, transformation, growth,** and **fellowship**. In Ezek. 11:19-20, God declared, "*And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.*"

A call to ministry (and all believers have been called!) comes with a serious **spiritual responsibility**. God called Ezekiel to be a "watchman for the house of Israel." A watchman was responsible to **listen** and **speak**. In Ezek. 33:7-9, God said, "*So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not*

turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul. A watchman needed to grasp the impending situation and sound the warning. How does the role of “watchman” apply to you and me?

- **Loved**
- **Redeemed**
- **Aware**
- **Called**
- **Equipped**
- **Responsible**
- **Accountable**

One of the toughest assignments in the Bible was Nathan’s call to confront David. David was God’s choice as king. However, God doesn’t ignore sin. God sent Ezekiel to prophecy against the shepherds of Israel. It’s one thing to speak a word of **encouragement**. It’s another matter to speak a word of **displeasure**. In Ezek. 34:1-6, God said, “*The word of the Lord came to me: “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord God: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep. The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them. So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts. My sheep were scattered; they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. My sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with none to search or seek for them.”* How should shepherds live and serve?

- Live **Christ-centered**
- Teach God’s **Word**
- Love God’s **people**
- Serve the **wounded**
- Reclaim the **wayward**

A verse that should sting the hearts of pastors and church leaders is Ezek. 34:10. God said, “*Behold, I am against the shepherds.*”

Are **revival** and **revitalization** possible in our day? Ezekiel reminds us that God can revive what seems lifeless and revitalize what seems dead. In Ezek. 37:10, he declared, “*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.*”

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