

## THE CALL OF EZEKIEL

### Ezekiel 2:3-7

#### INTRODUCTION

- A. What would it be like to be directly called by God today?
  - 1. We have been looking at some of those directly called by God.
  - 2. We lean toward those tasks which make us feel important or enhance our own self-worth, whether in our own eyes or in the eyes of others.
  - 3. But what if the Lord called you to do something and then warned that they wouldn't listen?
- B. We live in a time when many in society are refusing to hear the call of the gospel.
  - 1. There was a resistance to the "gospel" message during Christ's day.
    - a. Mt. 4:17, "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*"
    - b. The Lord was crucified.
  - 2. There was a resistance to the "gospel" message during Paul's day.
    - a. Stoned for his teaching, Acts 15.
  - 3. There has always been a resistance to the Word of the Lord.
  - 4. Yet, God continues to call us,
    - a. To teach and preach the gospel message.
    - b. And to repent from the sins of the world.
  - 5. How far will you go – taking the gospel to the lost?

#### I. THE CALL OF EZEKIEL.

- A. Ezekiel the Prophet.
  - 1. Of the tribe of Levi, the son of a priest.
  - 2. Taken into Babylonian captivity with thousands of others.
    - a. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshack, and Abednego.
  - 3. Ezekiel was called to prepare the people for the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple.
  - 4. And the message of the eventual return "home," Ez. 11:16-17, 19-20.
  - 5. Ezekiel called to do "crazy things" to show the depth of God's love for His people.
    - a. Lay on his left side for 390 days, Ez. 4:4-5.
    - b. Lay on his right side for 40 days, Ez. 4:6-6.
- B. The Spiritual Condition.
  - 1. God's people described as a "rebellious house", Ez. 2:8; 3:9.
    - a. 8 times in chapter 2 through 3:9.
    - b. Described as stubborn and obstinate, 2:4; 3:7.
  - 2. This was not a foreign people, but his own, Ez. 3:5-6.
    - a. No language barriers or cultural barriers.
  - 3. Warned that this would be a difficult challenge, Ez. 3:8-9.
    - a. Your face as hard as their faces – I've made you as stubborn as they are.
    - b. 2:6, thistles and thorns and scorpions...
  - 4. His message would be totally rejected, Ez. 3:7.
  - 5. He was commanded to preach, "*Thus says the Lord God,*" 3:11.
- C. Difficult Challenges Today.
  - 1. The apostles were warned of persecution, Mark 13:9, 13.
  - 2. We are called to face difficult challenges, 2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Pet. 4:16.
  - 3. Even when we face rejection?
  - 4. Do we continue preaching the words, "*Thus says the Lord God?*"

## II. THE ANSWER TO THE CALL.

- A. Ezekiel Fulfills the Call.
  - 1. He didn't go cheerfully, 3:14.
  - 2. And for seven days sat among the people, 3:15.
- B. Just the beginning of Ezekiel's response.
  - 1. The message of the prophet was designed to help the people see what they were doing to the Lord.
  - 2. Do we consider matters from the Lord's vantage point?
  - 3. God wants us to be faithful to Him, Rev. 2:10.
    - a. *"Be faithful until death."*

## III. WHY THE CALL?

- A. Why Would the Lord Give Ezekiel Such a Mission?
  - 1. It is not a message they wanted to hear.
  - 2. The answer explained to Ezekiel, 3:17-19.
    - a. A message to provide a warning.
    - b. A message that would fulfill the justice of God.
    - c. There will be no surprises on judgment day!
  - 3. What if Ezekiel refused to deliver the message?
    - a. What if Ezekiel decided to change the message?
    - b. He would be condemned as the watchman.
    - c. *"There's a message true and glad for the sinful and the sad,  
It will give them courage new, it will help them to be true.  
Tell the world of saving grace, make it known in every place  
Help the needy ones to know Him from whom all blessings flow;  
Ring the message out."*

## IV. OUR CALL, OUR RESPONSE.

- A. The greatest prophet, Mt. 7:13-14.
  - 1. Many will not listen.
  - 2. 2 Timothy 4:3-4 – will not endure sound doctrine.
  - 3. Eph. 4:14 – tossed here and there ... every wind of doctrine
- B. Are we doing all we can do to warn people?
  - 1. We are commissioned to instruct, and warn and try to save, Mt. 28:18-20.
  - 2. People of the world, people God loves (Jn. 3:16) are on a path leading to eternal destruction, unless they repent.
  - 3. Who will warn them?
  - 4. People Need the Lord, when will we realize that people need the Lord.
- C. We are the watchman!
  - 1. God has promised His help, Phi. 4:13; 2 Tim. 1:7-8.
  - 2. Whether or not people will listen.
  - 3. The mission is still to teach and preach.
  - 4. There is a great day coming.
    - a. Acts 17:30-31 – overlooked ignorance and set a day...
    - b. 2 Cor. 5:10 – judgment day.