

July 23, 2017



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Ezekiel Ezek 3:1-11

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson examine the details and the implications of the call of **Ezekiel**. The study's aim is to teach that a call from God requires that the one called respect the details. The study's application is to ensure that we are always sensitive to the call of God and its implications.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

The Prophet Ezekiel lived in troublesome times. Judah and its capital of Jerusalem had come under the dominance of Babylon, whose king took Daniel and other capable young men captive in 605 B.C., transporting them to Babylon (Dan. 1:1-4). When Judah rebelled, the Babylonians returned in 597 B.C., taking more captives, including Ezekiel. Ezekiel's prophetic ministry took place in Babylonia, but it was directed at both the Israelite captives in that land and those who still remained in Judah. While he spoke of glorious days in the future, Ezekiel "informed his listeners about the impending and final judgment coming at the hands of the Babylonians" (Benware, Survey of the Old Testament, Moody). That would come in 586 B.C., when Jerusalem and the temple would be leveled and the bulk of the remaining population taken into exile. This message of doom was not what people wanted to hear. In fact, the Lord told Ezekiel the people would not heed the message (Ezek, 3:7). Perhaps this resistance was what led to the two emphases we find in our text. First, the Lord told Ezekiel to go to his own people who were in captivity. This was the third time in the account of Ezekiel's calling the Lord had stated this (cf. Ezek. 2:3; 3:4). Ezekiel's ministry was to the people of Israel alone (3:5). As a priest (1:3), Ezekiel was particularly qualified to speak to his people, but this was no easy task, given their rebellious character (2:3). Thus, the Lord told him over and over again to go to the people. He had nothing to fear because the Lord had equipped him and strengthened him to face the attacks (3:8). The second emphasis we see in our text is that Ezekiel was to speak to them the Lord's message, regardless of their response. He was to tell them, "Thus saith the Lord God; whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear." The Lord already had said this twice before in this context, telling Ezekiel to say to them, "Thus saith the Lord God" (Ezek. 2:4) and to speak the Lord's "words unto them" (3:4). He was not sent to argue with them or to impress them with his knowledge, wisdom, or power. He was merely to repeat to them what the Lord said to him. For the third time, the Lord told the prophet that he was to speak the divine message whether they would "hear" or whether they would "forbear" (cf. Ezek. 2:5, 7). To "hear" means to hear in the sense of heeding, or obeying. "Forbear" means to refrain from doing something. Ezekiel was to present the Lord's words whether the people obeyed them or not. While the Lord had said the people as a whole would not listen (3:7), the wording here leaves room for the hope that some few individuals would. Ezekiel's specific mission was unique, but his ministry was not so different from ours. It is liberating to know that the Lord does not expect us to change people's hearts; God simply wants us to faithfully deliver His message. Many will reject it, but by God's grace, some might believe.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Now we see Jesus in the Bible, but then, face to face

COMMENT FOR THE WEEK:

We cannot comprehend how brilliant and awesome the Lord's glory is, so we can't be sure of how we'll respond when one day we're in His presence. Will we dance or be still? Will we stand in awe or fall to our knees? Will we sing or not be able to speak at all? Just imagine!

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord.

(Ezek 1:28 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Dec 2, 2005)

Series: God's Urgent Call

UNIT: Calling of Prophets

NEXT WEEK

Amos

(Amos 7:10-17)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Divine Word Given (Ezek 3:1-3)

Accepting God's Word (1)

Accepting God's Word as the actual word of God (1 Thess 2:13)

Accepting God's Word with its power (1 Thess 1:5)

Accepting God's Word and being born again (1 Peter 1:23)

Accepting God's Word like pure spiritual milk (1 Peter 2:2)

Accepting God's Word and let it bear fruit (Col 1:6)

Understanding God's Word (2)

Understanding from God's precepts (Ps 119:104)

Understanding from following God's Word (Ps 111:10)

Understanding from the Scriptures (2 Tim 3:15-17)

Understanding from God's mouth (Prov 2:6)

Delighting in God's Word (3)

Delighting in God's commands (Ps 112:1)

Delighting in God's decrees (Ps 119:16)

Delighting in God's statutes (Ps 119:24)

Delighting in God's Law (Ps 119:174)

Divine Mission Assigned (Ezek 3:4-7)

A mission to preach God's Word (4-5)

Preach eagerly (Rom 1:15)

Preach where the gospel is not known (Rom 15:20)

Preach the gospel (1 Cor 1:17)

Preach voluntarily (1 Cor 9:17)

Preach in season and out of season (2 Tim 4:2)

A mission that will be rejected (6-7)

A rejection that is a rejection of God (1 Thess 4:8)

A rejection of God as king (1 Sam 8:7)

A rejection that will condemn man (John 12:48)

A rejection that will bring God's wrath (2 Chron 36:16)

A rejection that displays conceitedness and a lack of understanding (1 Tim 6:3-5)

Divine Assurance Provided (Ezek 3:8-11)

Assurance to have courage (8-9)

Courage because there should be no fear (Josh 1:9)

Courage because through prayer God can make one bold (Acts 4:28-31)

Courage because of entrusting oneself to God (1 Peter 2:23)

Courage because God will rescue (Jer 1:8)

Assurance to be faithful (10-11)

A faithfulness that is based on a Divine promise (Heb 11:11)

A faithfulness that should be committed to (1 Peter 4:19)

A faithfulness that is irrevocable (Rom 11:29)

A faithfulness that means it will be done (1 Thess 5:24)

A faithfulness that cannot be disowned (2 Tim 2:13)

A faithfulness that is unswerving (Heb 10:23)