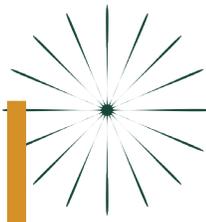


EZEKIEL



CALL AND COMMISSION

PART 2

Responsibility to the Call

READ EZEKIEL 2:6-8

INTRODUCTION

Ezekiel was being called by God to a life of sacrifice for His purpose. Even though his life was to be separated for God, Ezekiel did not complain about what God was calling him into. At the beginning of chapter two we see that the call for Ezekiel was to go to the nation of Israel. (vv. 3-4) He could have groaned and complained about the fact he was to go to a rebellious and stubborn people. Most people do not look forward to public speaking as it is, let alone having to do it to a people that are unreceptive. God encourages him through this though, by saying that regardless of how the people react to him, he is the prophet sent from God. (v. 5) There is no guarantee of success when we follow God, but we are to be faithful to the calling that He gives to us.

There are many things that can distract us from speaking the truths of God to our friends, family, or co-workers. God reassures Ezekiel that he should not care or be afraid of what the people say or do. There is nothing that a man can do that supersedes the Word of God. (Matthew 10:28) Paul spoke with boldness about the Gospel that saved him. (Romans 1:16) This does not mean that it is not difficult at times but that God has called us to be bold for Him and He will take care of the rest.

The words that Ezekiel was to speak to the people were the words of God Himself. This is a serious charge because it is important not to mishandle the Word of God. Ezekiel was told to be courageous and bold when speaking to the people and to not be rebellious as they were. (vv. 7-8) He was called to eat what God gave him and to follow God above all others. We are called to the same thing. We have been made new and whole through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our bodies are no longer ours. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) We must listen to the call of God and be bold in sharing His Gospel.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read John 10:27. When God calls us, how can we be sure it is Him? How is God calling you into a place of vulnerability? Will you listen?
2. Have you ever been asked to do something that you knew would be hard and you really didn't want to do? What was the end result? Is it hard for you to do the will of God without groaning? How can a person work on their attitude when doing something that they don't particularly want to do?
3. What are some of the main distractions that come up on a daily basis in life? Do you think that Ezekiel had distractions like us? What is the best way to fight all of the distractions that are swirling around us every day and how do we focus our attention on the things of God above all others?
4. Read Romans 1:16-17. What was it that caused Paul to speak so boldly about the Gospel? What does it mean when it says "the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith"? How is it possible to live a life by faith in the current world and culture that we are surrounded by?
5. In John 14:15 Jesus says that "if you love Me, then you will keep my commandments". In light of that, how should we listen and submit to the Lord and His call? Ezekiel was told that God would give him everything he needed even down to what he ate. Do we rely on God for everything or just some things? What does it mean to be wholly reliant on God? How can we do that?

WRAP UP

Ezekiel was given a task that may have seemed daunting. He took it and listened to God and was used by God to speak to the people. They were stubborn and stiff necked but Ezekiel was not worried about them as much as he wanted to follow the will of the Father. We see this same example in Jesus Christ and His submission to God the Father in being willing to die on a cross for the sins of the world. How, then, can we submit to and follow the Word and the calling of our heavenly Father?