

“THEN THEY SHALL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD”
STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL
“LOOKING OUT FOR THE SOULS OF OTHERS”
Ezekiel 3:1-27

As we move from childhood to becoming adults, we realize that maturity brings an awareness of being responsible for others, rather than selfishly caring only for ourselves. As believers, we carry a huge weight of responsibility as we seek to warn others of the dangers to come if they continue to reject Christ.

Every believer bears the responsibility of being an ambassador for Christ. It may be the most difficult assignment you will ever receive, but it can also be the most rewarding in light of eternity. Are you up to the task? (*2nd Corinthians 5:17-21*)

I. EVERY AMBASSADOR NEEDS TO KNOW THE VALUES AND MESSAGE OF THE COUNTRY HE OR SHE REPRESENTS. YOU NEED TO “EAT AND DIGEST” THE ENTIRE BIBLE TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE LORD IN THIS “FOREIGN COUNTRY.” (Ezekiel 2:8-3:1-3)

A. The Word of God may be “tough to swallow” if you disobey Him, but as you get to know Him, the Word becomes sweeter than honey. Your quality of life is based upon your knowledge and application of Scripture to every situation.

1. Matthew 4:1-4; John 6:48-63; Jeremiah 15:16; Job 23:12

II. THE TOUGHEST AUDIENCE TO PREACH TO ARE THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW ABOUT GOD BUT REFUSE TO OBEY HIM, WHICH DEFINES MANY OF OUR CHURCH ATTENDERS TODAY. (Ezekiel 3:4-7)

A. The danger of listening to sermons and not responding is that your heart and head become harder every time you do so, and that leads towards the judgment of God.

B. It is normal to feel rejection when you share the Gospel. However, the listener is rejecting the Lord first, which is why they will not listen to us.

1. 1st Samuel 8:5-8

III. AS GOD’S AMBASSADOR, YOU HAVE TO BE TOUGHER THAN THE AUDIENCE HE SENDS YOU TO. THE LORD WILL PREPARE YOU FOR WHAT HE HAS PREPARED FOR YOU! (Ezekiel 3:8-14)

A. Communicate the message of the Lord faithfully and clearly. You are not responsible for the response, but you are responsible for the delivery.

B. The Spirit of the Lord can overpower any of your emotions that might hinder you from obeying Him. Your job is to be willing to do anything and everything He says to you. (*Ezekiel 3:12-14*)

C. Sometimes we just need to sit, observe, and identify with the people we are called to serve. When we are upset, we seldom see people the way God wants us to see them. (Ezekiel 3:15)

IV. AS GOD'S AMBASSADOR, WE ARE ALSO ASSIGNED TO BE THE WATCHMAN WHO IS ALERT AND RESPONSIBLE TO WARN OTHERS OF APPROACHING DANGER. ARE YOU DOING YOUR JOB? (Ezekiel 3:16-27)

A. The person who rejects the Gospel is responsible for their decision, but the Lord will hold you accountable for not speaking up when He tells you too. Better to enjoy the blessings of obedience than the guilt of disobedience. (Ezekiel 3:16-19)

B. We are to practice righteous living all the way to the finish line. If we stop short, we can lose all that we have worked for during our lives. Love one another enough to speak words of correction whenever someone needs to hear them. (Ezekiel 3:20-21)

C. As God's spokesman, we have to be aware of when we should speak, and when we should be quiet. We can only speak on His behalf as;

1. We recognize His glory
2. He authorizes us to do so
3. He puts His words in our mouth as we commune with Him.

AS A BELIEVER, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO WATCH OUT FOR THE SOULS OF OTHERS, AND FAITHFULLY PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD RATHER THAN YOUR OWN MESSAGES. "EAT THE WORD" SO YOU CAN SPEAK LIFE TO OTHERS IN NEED.

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BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS

1. *Is there someone with whom God has asked you to share the Gospel and you have hesitated because you did not want to be rejected? What will you do differently after hearing the sermon today?*
2. *Most of us eat a few meals every day. How often do you "eat the word" of God? Is there clear evidence of the Scriptures having become a part of you? What will you do differently after learning from Ezekiel?*