

The Watchman #2 Speaking to a Rebellious Generation

Word

Scripture Reference

Ezekiel 2:1-7

Discussion Questions

1. What is your greatest fear in life? Why?
2. We are called to speak to hostile audience called the world. How can we find courage to speak to them? Read Ezekiel 2:1-7. God sent Ezekiel with a mission to speak to the toughest crowd he could ever encounter—the rebellious Israelites—and tell them that they need to stand up to listen to God. What did God tell Ezekiel to do? What were the people of God guilty of? Do you think the job God asked Ezekiel to do was easy? As Christians, we are also commissioned by God to reach out to the world with the gospel. Describe the world that you live in—your community at school, work or your own family. Are the people there easy to reach out to? Share how you are at least trying to communicate the gospel to those in your circle of influence.
3. This passage tells us that God encouraged Ezekiel to reach out to a rebellious generation by telling him to remember three things, which as Christians we must also remember in our mission to tell an unreceptive world about Jesus:
 - a. *Remember not your own words, but God's word (v. 4).* Ezekiel was instructed by God to relay His message to the people of Israel by saying, “Thus says the Lord,” making it clear to the Israelites that the message Ezekiel was delivering was from the omniscient and unchanging God. How do you react to people who would tell you not to push what you believe on them? Share how you have grounded yourself on the Word of God. How is your Bible study life? What do you think will happen to your credibility as a Christian if you lack knowledge what the Word of God says?
 - b. *Remember that regardless of whether the people would listen or not, you should be a faithful messenger in word and deed (v. 5).* Ezekiel was called to give God's message to the people, whether they would listen or not. The most important was that the people knew that a prophet of God was among them. As God's children, we are modern prophets (God's messengers) who need to share the gospel

through word and deed. Discuss how your testimony is being watered down by your actions in your daily life. Instead of being a weak modern prophet, what should you do in order to have authenticity in your word and action? Share how you have earned respect as a Christian.

- c. *Remember not to be afraid because you are not responsible for other people's response (v. 6-7).* God gave Ezekiel the difficult responsibility of presenting His message to a rebellious and abusive people. Ezekiel's responsibility was to speak out God's Word; how the people would respond to God's message was beyond that responsibility. Discuss the different reactions or responses of people when the gospel is shared with them. Have you ever blamed yourself when someone with whom you have shared the gospel with reacted negatively? Should you blame yourself when someone with whom you share the gospel with reacts negatively? How does it encourage you to know that your only responsibility is to deliver God's message in love and that someone else's response to that message is out of your hands? Should it give you confidence and motivation to share the gospel instead of being afraid and intimidated of how people would respond?

Walk

Ezekiel was sent with a mission to a rebellious, obstinate, and stubborn generation as a watchman who stood in the gap to make impact in the world. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are also sent to speak about God to hostile audience. People might reject you, look you with disapproval and speak to you with cutting words, and yes, some of those people may even be your loved ones. But be encouraged that what you share is not your words, but the Words of the omniscient and unchanging God. Regardless of whether they will listen to you or not, be a faithful messenger in word and deed. Don't be afraid of how they will respond to the gospel message because their response is not your responsibility; your responsibility is to be the messenger. What kind of a messenger do you want to be? Do you believe that God's strength is powerful enough to help you speak and live for Him even under criticism? What encourages you to be a faithful messenger of God's truth?

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, You filled Ezekiel with Your Spirit because of his open and obedient attitude. And because of it, he was courageous and full of trust to You who called him as messenger. Thank you Lord God that the measure of my success do not depend on how people would respond, but how well I obey You and thus fulfill Your purpose for me. Help me Lord to be a faithful and courageous messenger as I share Your word to my family members, friends and colleagues who do not know You. Help me not to be intimidated and afraid of rejection and disapproval, but may Your strength prevail so that I can accomplish with Your help the purpose that You have in my life as Your messenger. In Jesus' name. Amen.