

I SAT WHERE THEY SAT

EZEKIEL 3

Text: Ezekiel 3:15

(Ezek 3:15) "Then I came to them of the captivity at Telabib, that dwelt by the river of Chebar, and I sat where they sat, and remained there astonished among them seven days."

Introduction:

Ezekiel was the Prophet who was among the Jews that were in exile.

The scene is laid in Babylon, when it was a house of bondage for Israel. Ezekiel reproves and warns and the people with very sharp and bold threats. Near the close of the book Ezekiel then comforts the people with the message of restoration, spiritual revival, and a glorious future for the redeemed of God.

Those who would apply the comfort to themselves must apply the convictions to themselves as well.

In our text today Ezekiel is receiving his commission, or his responsibility.

Notice:

- He consumed the Word of God. (Vs. 1-3)
- He was sent. (Vs. 4)
- He was sent to familiar people. (Vs. 5-6)
- He was reminded of the difficulty of being sent to those he was familiar with. (Vs. 6-7)
- He is reminded of God's strength (Vs. 8-9)
- He is reminded on how to be effective as a preacher. (Vs. 10)
- He went with a heavy heart. (Vs. 14)

Notice as Ezekiel arrived what he does.

The Bible says that he sat where they sat and remained there astonished among them seven days.

So often we go to people without any clue as to what is going on in their life, the hurt, sin and wickedness. No doubt as Ezekiel observed he became more and more astonished.

I believe if we are going to be effective in reaching the world with the gospel we must:

1. REMEMBER THE PAST

A. Remember where we come from.

1. We too were wicked.

(Psa 40:2) "He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings."

2. Often the more separated we become; the less our heart is troubled for the wicked.

(Mat 9:10) "And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples."

(Mark 2:15-16) "And it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and his disciples: for there were many, and they followed him. {16} And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners?"

3. Remember we couldn't stand either if the Lord were to mark our iniquities.

(Psa 130:3) "If thou, LORD, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?"

B. Remember those who warned or witnessed to you.

2. REVIEW THE PRESENT

A. Is your heart heavy for the wicked?

Many times we become like the Pharisees. Instead of a broken heart we have a boastful heart.

Win the Lost at Any Cost

(Verse 1)

As we look around us, all the fields are white,
Ripened unto harvest and so swiftly comes the night;
Christians must get busy, there is work to do,
Here's an urgent task awaiting you.

(Verse 2)

Christ our loving Shepherd, went out from the fold,
Seeking for the stray lamb that was lost in darkened cold;
Tender hands of kindness, raised him from the ground,
Now the little lost one had been found.

(Verse 3)

Check your fold my Christian, are the children in?
Are there yet some straying lost in blackened fields of sin;
You must go and reach them, go without delay,
Soon the shades of night will end the day.

(Chorus)

Souls are crying, men are dying, Won't you lead them
to the cross?
Go and find them, help to win them, win the lost at any
cost.
Go out and win, rescue from sin, days almost done, low
sinks the sun. Souls are crying, men are dying, Win the
lost at any cost.

3. RESTORE THE PURPOSE

A. Our purpose is to be a watchman.

1. The responsibility of the watchman

- Universal responsibility
- Unfulfilled responsibility
- Urgent responsibility

2. Resource of the watchman

The Word of God

(Heb 4:12) "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

3. Reckoning of the watchman.

(Ezek 3:18 KJV) "When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand."

(Ezek 3:20 KJV) "Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand."

See 2 Cor. 5:10-11

(2 Cor 5:10-11 KJV) "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the

things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. {11} Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences."

See Acts 20:31

(Acts 20:31 KJV) "Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."

Close:

Have you sat where they sit? Are you astonished?

Are you fulfilling your responsibility as a watchman?