

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Pastor Todd Patton

Ezekiel 33: 1-9

“Ezekiel is Israel’s Watchmen”

God was teaching Ezekiel an important lesson which is still valid for us today.

I would say to you that if you are a Pastor here today ... you are a watchmen!

This idea of a watchmen is a military term. It was a guard or sentry standing a post on a wall on alert for invaders.

God connects us to this same picture. You as a Pastor are on guard for your people, warning them and protecting them from invaders.

Verses 1-2

God tells Ezekiel to speak to his people.

- Why are they “his” people?
- Two reasons: God has chosen him and his people have chosen him.

Likewise, you have been chosen by God to pastor and your people have chosen you to be their leader.

- You are their watchmen!

What does a watchmen do?

- Blows the trumpet to sound the alarm.

The trumpet, as we will see later, is the Word of God, and you are the one to sound it with your breath.

God has given you his very Word and the ability to preach it with every breath you have. And so it is with everything you have inside of you that you preach the Word.

But notice what your responsibility is, and what it is not.

Verses 4-5

Your responsibility is to the sound the alarm ... to preach what God has given you to preach ... His words.

If your people listen and respond ... they will be saved. If not ... their blood is on their own hands.

Notice what you are warning them about ... a coming sword!

There is a coming judgment that God has in mind here and he wants his watchmen to warn his people of it.

So you are chosen, to preach God's Word to your people to warn them of a coming judgment that they must be saved from.

- The only way they know they need to be saved is because of you sounding the alarm.

But ... if you don't sound the alarm, verse 6 tells us God will hold you accountable.

Verse 6

What would be a reason why the watchmen would not want to sound the alarm?

- They are not true watchmen in the first place and have no concern for the people.
- They are afraid of what their people might think. Maybe they want to be "liked" more than following their calling.
- They don't like the sound of the trumpet. Maybe they want to change it to a more softer sound. The trumpet is loud and piercing, they would much rather it be a flute or violin, something the people would find nicer.

Notice that any of these are poor excuses ... at the expense of your people.

You have been given a trumpet for a reason, it is the very Word of God ... blow the trumpet!

Verses 7-8

God has declared you a watchmen for South Sudan! He has given you his Word to speak to your people. If you do not say what He says and teach your people whom He has entrusted to your care, they will die and you will answer for it.

Verse 9

If you are a faithful watchmen, speaking the Word and warning the wicked to turn from their ways and they choose not to then they will die in their sin but you will have delivered your soul.

I wonder today Pastor, will you stand your post and be the watchmen for South Sudan:

- Faithful to the Word
- Faithful to watch
- Faithful to warn