

Ezekiel Part 2 (Ezekiel 2:1-3:3)

1. Discipline/judgement alone does not always guarantee repentance.
2. After 5 years in exile - God's people were still rebelling against Him. (Ezekiel 2:1-7)
3. The Jewish exiles saw their time in Babylon as a temporary setback.
4. They refused to admit their sin or to believe the threat of impending judgment on their disobedient nation.
5. The great news was Ezekiel would bring a message from God directly to the nation.
6. The bad news - they did not want to hear it. (Ezekiel 3:7)
7. Ezekiel is called "son of man" in 2:1 - and ninety-three times in the book. The title emphasized his humanity and mortality.
8. Ezekiel was face down in the dust when God spoke to him, reminding him of mankind's humble beginning. (Ezekiel 1:28)
9. The word "rebellious/rebelled" (verse 3) is used seven times to describe God's chosen people.
10. How would God describe us today?
11. What would He say about our desire for - and our obedience to His word?
12. In 2:6-7 God told Ezekiel 3 times not to be afraid. He needed this encouragement because the task was difficult and even dangerous.
13. And - how did Ezekiel react to this calling on his life? (Ezekiel 3:14)
14. The only hope for seeing the hardness of heart in a person is the Word of God. (Matthew 10:25)
15. Read Ezekiel 2:8-3:3
16. Boy - that sort of message will sure draw a crowd.
17. The word from the Lord became a part of Ezekiel.
18. Today - as believers - the Word should become a part of us.
19. God also wanted Ezekiel to know that he was not responsible for the acceptance or rejection of the message - only the delivery of the message.

20. In the end - the people would know that a prophet of God had been in their midst. (Ezekiel 3:5)
21. It is the Word of God that the Holy Spirit uses to bring about conviction and spiritual growth.
22. What the people needed more than anything else was to hear the Word of the Lord.
23. Even before the nation fell, Jeremiah had warned them not to listen to the false prophets, but neither the leaders nor the people would listen. (Jeremiah 5:30-31; 6:14; 7:8; 8:10)
24. God had spoken clearly in Israel's shameful defeat and captivity, but now the Jews were still clinging to empty hopes and listening to the lying words of false prophets in Babylon. (Jeremiah 29:15-32)
25. The human heart would rather listen to lies that bring comfort and ease the conscience than to hear truth that brings conviction and cleansing.