

The Watchman #3
A Watchman for the People

Word

Scripture Reference

Ezekiel 2:8–3:27

Discussion Questions

1. What's the job of a spokesperson? What makes their job difficult?
2. Ezekiel was called to be God's spokesperson to the rebellious Israelites. Every believer is also called to be a spokesperson for our Lord Jesus Christ, which is not an easy responsibility because we have a skeptical and rebellious audience. Are there requirements for someone who is spokesperson of Christ? Yes. Read Ezekiel 2:8-3:27. We see in this passage how God prepared Ezekiel to be His voice to the Israelites, and ***the first requirement to be God's spokesperson is to be rooted in the Word (ch. 2:8–3:15)***. God asked Ezekiel to do an unbelievable task—to eat a scroll with writings of the impending judgment. The symbolic act of eating the scroll was to teach Ezekiel not to just read the Word of God but to really understand it, to digest it and assimilate it into his life by living it out. He needed to know the Word of God through and through. Discuss why we should digest or fully understand the Word of God to be able to speak about it with confidence? What are some of the biblical truths that you believe but find difficult to explain why you believe them? How could you remedy that difficulty?
3. The Scripture is not simply an opinion of another deity or sayings of the many religions around the world, but the Word of the Almighty and majestic God. The words of the Scripture should be handled and applied in your life with great reverence. Ezekiel could identify with God's anger toward the wicked and rebellious Israelites after digesting God's Word. He infused it into

his life for seven days. Discuss how a person can be rooted in the Word of God to be an effective spokesperson for Christ. How much time do you spend in the Word of God? How do you digest what you read or hear?

4. ***The second requirement for a spokesperson of Christ is to be a watchman for your people (ch. 3:15-21)***. A watchman warns the people of impending danger. As Ezekiel was called to be a watchman, so are you to be for the people of your generation. A watchman is a job with great responsibility; your warning must be on time and relevant for the times. People may not appreciate you for doing your job, but it is for the good of those who are in danger. Looking through the lenses of biblical truth, discuss the things that you should warn unbelievers about as a watchman for God. Why should you not wait until a person is about to die before you share the gospel with him/her? As a parent, in what areas are you responsible as a watchman for your children?
5. God not only instructed Ezekiel to be a watchman of the ungodly, but of the righteous people as well, in order to prevent them from sinning. Otherwise Ezekiel would be responsible (v. 18-19). Why do companies put warnings on their products? Share important warnings from the Scripture that every Christian should be reminded of constantly. Discuss what happens when the watchman fails to warn those who need to be warned?
6. ***The third requirement for a spokesperson of Christ is to live a life of restraint or limitation (ch. 3:22-27)***. God limited Ezekiel by putting him on house arrest to protect him from people who were unhappy about his warnings and also to punish the people's rebelliousness (by limiting their access to God's prophet). Additionally, God also made Ezekiel mute, allowing Ezekiel to speak only when Ezekiel needs to deliver God's message. Ezekiel was only able to talk to warn the people occasionally. As a Christian, you also ought to have limitations to make a difference. Contrast how a Christian should live against everyone else in the world. Do you find it difficult to choose to not do the things that you shouldn't? How can you say, "I will choose to do what is right" with honesty?

Walk

Just like Ezekiel, you are called to speak to a group of people—to your circle of influence. Your calling has nothing to do with your ability to speak (being eloquent), but it is your day-to-day life with your family, friends, co-workers, and any other people you have contact with that speaks for God. You will be an effective spokesperson for Him when you are rooted in the Word, when you act as a watchman for others, and when you live a life of restraint. Evaluate how you are living your Christian life by asking the following questions:

- a. How am I being rooted in the Word of God? Do I just hear it, or do I have the desire to go deeper in my knowledge so that I can share it with confidence?
- b. Do I warn the people in my circle of influence about God's impending judgment to those who don't believe in Him? How am I warning/ influencing my Christian brothers and sisters to prevent them from living in sin and falling into a pit that they cannot get out of?
- c. What limitations do I put on myself so that I can make a difference? What should I do when I am tempted to compromise my faith?

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for calling me to be Your spokesperson to my people. It is a tough job. Forgive me when I fail to speak for You due to my lack of faith, sufficient knowledge of Your Word, and fear that leads me to just go with the flow instead of standing up for You. But thank You because with Your strength, wisdom, and sufficient grace, I know that I can do it. Help me to overcome my weaknesses and be bold in my witness in words and in deed. Thank You that You have done everything for me. I am just Your voice that my people need to hear to draw them closer to You. Help me to take my responsibility seriously and joyfully. In Jesus' name. Amen.