

# Ezekiel 4-5 – 26 April 2015

## Introduction –

Opened with Ezekiel 1-3 showing, just as us all, Ezekiel was given *Spiritual Enlightenment, a Tremendous Task that had Lasting Effects.*

Man in gorilla suit story (shut up, do you want us both to get caught?)

The man really wanted to represent a gorilla. How much more should we really want to represent Christ?

**The three great indicators that your life is being an effective witness for Christ**

**#1 great indicator that your life is being an effective witness for Christ is that you LIVE IT – Intro (no chapter**

1. Live your Christianity not just your good morals – Eze chap 4-5
  - a. Chapter 4-5 Ezekiel is told to be a sermon without words, act out a prophecy.
    - i. Thru whole book he does things the specifically point to truth God wants to teach.
    - ii. Ezekiel leaves no question Whom he serves!

b. Read Phil 1:27

c. Have you heard people say, “I witness by my lifestyle” or “I lead people to Christ by living a good life”?

i. How does that work?

ii. A good lifestyle could lead someone to Mormonism or Buddhism

iii. Your life cannot be filled with just moral habits; it must be filled with **Christian** habits.

1. Not just ‘we don’t go to the bar at night’, but ‘we read our bible at night’.

2. Not just ‘we’re polite at the dinner table’ but ‘we pray at the dinner table’.

3. Not just ‘Jesus was a good teacher talk’ but “Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life talk’.

iv. Our Christian conduct and habits will lead us to full blown conversations for Christ.

1. Listening to Christian music at work – people ask about it.

2. Going to church while on work trip – people ask where I’ve been

3. Read I Peter 3:15-16

- v. Look how Ezekiel showed his faith not just good morals.
  1. Lived his faith around all people – Eze 3:15
  2. Studied God’s Word regardless of setting – Eze 3:16

**#2 great indicator that your life is being an effective witness for Christ is that you GIVE IT – Chapter 4**

1. Give Bible specifics to situations not just well-wishes or opinions.
2. Read references
  - a. II Cor 1:12-13
  - b. Luke 1:1-4
  - c. II Pet 1:15-16
3. Ezekiel 4 is a very specific prophecy; we need to answer people with God’s specific answers, not opinions or fluffy ‘it will be ok’ answers.
  - a. Children of Israel were in trouble and they needed God’s specific guidance, whether they wanted it or not.
  - b. Let’s jump into it.
4. **The prophecy – The conquering, the timing and the Diaspora’s poverty.**

- a. Chap 4:1-4
  - i. Without speaking Ezekiel acts out the siege.
  - ii. Researchers have found 1,000s of these tiles today.
- b. Chapter 4:4-8
  - i. Why more time attributed to the North?
    1. More people to sin (10 tribes)
    2. More wicked leaders
  - ii. “Punished in years according to days” is a pattern of God’s.
    1. Nub 14:34 – 2 spies 40 days / 40 yrs
    2. Jer 70 years of Babylon captivity wasn’t the punishment for the people, that was to give the land rest as God promised.
    3. God’s punishment of Israel (starting at the Babylonian Captivity) is a days to yrs punishment recorded here in Eze.
- c. Chapter 4:9-17
  - i. Designed to show their absolute poverty during the coming time period.
  - ii. Vs 13 – “Whither I will drive them”?
    1. Thought they were already driven?

2. Now, let's look at the days/yr's prophecy of Israel's (not the land's) punishment.
- d. Ezekiel's 430 yr's punishment
- i. Did God prophecy about this? **Lev 26**
    1. Why punishment? – “But if you don't obey Me...” (vs 14)
    2. What is the punishment?
      - a. Vs 17 – “they that hate you shall reign over you“
      - b. Vs 33-34, 38-39 – scattered among the heathen.
    3. How?
      - a. x7 punishment (vs 18, 21, 24, 28)
  - ii. Do we know when the punishment began?  
**Jer 25:11, Jer 29:10, II Chr 36:21, Dan 9:2**
    1. Notice talk of desolation of the land.
    2. This started in 605 BC
  - iii. It's not until Ezekiel 4 that God reveals the length of the punishment for the people of Israel. This is 430 years.
  - iv. Land 70 yr and people 430 yr punishment started at 605BC, so at end of 70 yrs...
    1. Will Israel only have 360 yrs left

2. Will it be TIMES SEVEN?
3. **Dan 9:11-14, Ezra 9:1-3, 13-14, Neh 1:7-8, Neh 13**
4. It is TIMES SEVEN
- v. The math comes out to May 14, 1948!!
  1. Remember what the punishment was!
  2. They that hate you will rule over you.
  3. I will scatter you.
- vi. Remarkable promise fulfilled!!!!
- e. So, when we give God's Word, **give specifics.**
  - i. Not just "I'll pray for you" but "I'll pray that you remember Psalm 3...God is your shield, your glory and the lifter of your head."
  - ii. Not just that God loves them but how specifically that God loves them.

**#3 great indicator that your life is being an effective witness for Christ is that you PIVOT OR SWIVET – Chapter 5**

1. You have the ability to declare that judgment comes to the wicked.
2. Read Chapter 5
3. Ezekiel warned the people that judgment was coming for disobedience.

- a. It's the loving thing to warn people of danger.
  - b. Vs 3 – There is ALWAYS mercy for those that turn to God.
4. This isn't just an anger OT prophet...that we can ignore.
- a. This is a pattern of God's to warn sinners.
    - i. Eze 33:11 – “I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked would turn.”
  - b. This is the pattern God set in the NT as well.
    - i. Act 17:30-31 – “the times of this ignorance God winked at but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent, b/c he hath appointed a day in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by [Jesus].”

### So In Conclusion –

- 1) We need to LIVE IT
  - a. Don't just have good moral habits, have good Christian habits!!
- 2) We need to GIVE IT
  - a. Talk very specifically about how God's Word applies to each situation of life.
- 3) We need to PIVOT or SWIVET

- a. Don't be scared to warn people of the wrath that abides on sinners...it's the loving thing to do.

So we've established today what God had for Ezekiel and what He has for us to do to be effective with our witness towards others for Christ.

I pray we are all challenged in a more meaningful way to live it, give it and teach the pivot to those we love and are eternally dying.

May God bless you in your endeavor.