

*“Lifeguard On Duty!”*

**1. Intro:**

- 1.1. **Ch.33** is “*Section 4*” of this book. It marks another turning point.
- 1.2. **Reminder: Read** Ezek.3:17 & 26,27.
  - 1.2.1. Ezekiel was called to be a watchman(3); he must remain silent except when delivering a message(26,27).
  - 1.2.2. Now people were to ordain their own watchmen in each territory.

**2. LIFEGUARD ON DUTY! (1-33)**

- 2.1. **Armies** always post sentries to watch out for the enemy.
- 2.2. **Homeland Security** is searching bags at airports, and bodies too in the name of guarding against terrorists.
- 2.3. The **FDIC** is watching over your money to make sure banks don’t steal it.
- 2.4. **ADT** & other companies are watching over our houses right now, protecting against intruders.
- 2.5. Our computers have **spy-ware** to keep us safe from Internet hackers.
- 2.6. We have **passwords, pin numbers** and **entry codes**. **Sentry duty is big stuff!**
- 2.7. **LIFEGUARD ON DUTY!** (1-11)
- 2.8. So many **signs** around us that warn us of **pending danger**:
  - 2.8.1. **Falling Rock** (That’s for others who are unlucky!)
  - 2.8.2. **Turn off A/C next 10 miles** (That’s for others who drive old Junkers, my car will make it!)
  - 2.8.3. **Warning Riptide** (That’s for those who can’t swim well)
    - 2.8.3.1. It’s easy to see **warning signs** for **others** & not for **ourselves!**
- 2.9. But it’s **far worse** when you were given the task to **set out the signs** to **warn others**, & instead took it upon yourself to **not set them out**.
  - 2.9.1. The **lifeguard** who is told to put up the riptide warning sign & decides “*it probably isn’t that big of a deal!*” (or, sharks, no swimming!)
- 2.10. God has called us to be the **Lifeguard on Duty** to the world that’s caught in the Rip Tide of sin. **Blow your whistle & sound the warning**.
  - 2.10.1. Lifeguards at the beach are there to **warn of impending danger** & to **be lifesavers**.
  - 2.10.2. I still don’t know why when people hear “warn” they think it has to be mean spirited? **How does the lifeguard warn?** “Whistle – hey, caution there is a rip tide! You’ll be saved if you swim along the shore line then come in. Don’t fight against it” **NOT** – “Hey, you will be **damned** if you continue that way. You will suck in water & die a **slow death** of suffocation slowly sinking to the bottom where you’ll become fish bait!

- 2.11. What good is an alarm clock that **stops** sounding the alarm? (Kelly's)
- 2.12. **Q: Do we present the gospel so people get the impact...that it is “a word from God”?**
- 2.12.1. Christianity's 2 great propositions: **[1] God is! [2] God has spoken!**  
 2.12.1.1. **In the beginning God...; God said...**
- 2.13. God loved the world. **Do you?** [Or, are you content w/being just a **keeper of the aquarium?**]
- 2.14. **Elton Trueblood**, the Quaker scholar, once compared **evangelism** to **fire**.  
 Evangelism occurs, he said, when Christians are **so ignited by their contact with Christ** that they in turn **set other fires**. It is easy to determine when something is aflame. It ignites other material. Any fire that does not spread will eventually go out. A church without evangelism is a contradiction in terms, just as a fire that does not burn is a contradiction. *Christian Theology in Plain Language*, p. 162
- 2.15. Not like the barber and felt it his duty to witness to his customers, but **he wasn't always careful**. One day he lathered a man for a shave, picked up the razor, and asked, “Sir, are you prepared to meet your God?”
- 2.16. Christianity has become a **life-enhancer** rather than a **life preserver!**
- 2.17. **GOD IS FAIR!** (12-20)
- 2.18. Ch.18 Ezekiel dealt with **God's fairness** in sending judgment to His people.
- 2.19. We should not judge **God** but allow Him to judge **us!**
- 2.20. (17) **How could they say God was unfair when they were so guilty before the law of God?**
- 2.21. **GOD JUDGES!** (21-29)
- 2.22. For 7 years Ezekiel has been silent. Now that his words about Jerusalem have been fulfilled, he can engage in normal conversation again.
- 2.23. **HEARING & NOT DOING!** (30-33)
- 2.24. **Pastors worse nightmare**. People **coming to hear** you preach, people **talking about** your sermon...but they don't do anything about what they hear!
- 2.25. Imagine calling a watchman's **warnings** “**a very lovely song**”. (Pastor when you call us to repentance...I hear *Barry Manilow* singing *Mandy!* **WHAT?** )
- 2.25.1. **They didn't take God's word seriously.**
- 2.25.2. Isaiah said it this way, **These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.**  
 2.25.2.1. Mt.15:8,9 Jesus said, **“Isaiah was right when he said...”**

- 2.26. **Complimenting** the preacher is not the same as **obeying** the Master!!! (www)
- 2.27. **Sensuality** hears & does nothing. **Spirituality** hears & obeys! G.Campbel Morgan
- 2.28. (33) Will those around you know *a Christian* has been among them?
- 2.29. **End:** An artist, seeking to **depict on canvas** the **meaning of evangelism**, painted a storm at sea. Black clouds filled the sky. Illuminated by a flash of lightning, a little boat could be seen disintegrating under the pounding of the ocean. Men were struggling in the swirling waters, their anguished faces crying out for help. The **only glimmer of hope** appeared in the foreground of the painting, where a **large rock protruded out of the water**. There, clutching desperately with both hands, was one lone seaman. It was a moving scene. Looking at the painting, one could see in the tempest a symbol of mankind's hopeless condition. And, true to the Gospel, the only hope of salvation was "the Rock of Ages", a shelter in the time of storm.
- But** as the artist reflected upon his work, he realized that **the painting did not accurately portray his subject**. So he discarded the canvas, and **painted another**. It was very similar to the first: the black clouds, the flashing lightning, the angry waters, the little boat crushed by the pounding waves, and the crew vainly struggling in the water. In the foreground the seaman was clutching the large rock for salvation. **But the artist made one change:** the survivor was holding on with only **one hand**, and with the other hand he was **reaching down to pull up a drowning friend!**
- That is the NT picture of evangelism - that hand reaching down to rescue the perishing. **Until that hand is extended, there is no Gospel - and there is no hope for the world.** Robert E. Coleman, In The Heartbeat of Evangelism.