

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont
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www.magnoliambc.org

Theme Unit: Judah, from Isaiah to the Exile

Unit III: Ezekiel and the Exile of Judah

Subject: To Everything Turn, Turn, Turn

Printed Text: Ezekiel 33: 7-16a

Key verse:

So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; Therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them before me (Ezekiel 33: 7 KJV).

Lesson Pointers:

- 1) Divine Appointment and Sacred Duty (Ezekiel 33: 7-9)
- 2) The Heart of GOD Revealed (Ezekiel 33: 10-11)
- 3) Justice, Repentance, and Restoration (Ezekiel 33: 12-16a)

Introduction:

Now it is worth noting that contemporary Black American communities often face critical moments that test their faith in Jesus Christ, and faces challenges that have echoed through generations; from advocating for justice in their neighborhoods to guiding young people through an increasingly dangerous and complex world. Many of our grandparents and leaders have shoulder heavy responsibilities as church leaders, grandparents raising grandchildren, and mentors to the troubled youth, and while fighting as community activists for change. The message of Ezekiel 33: 7-16a speaks of the legacy of responsibility and redemption. This legacy resonates with those who have witnesses both the struggles and triumphs of communities, and have seen neighborhoods transformed, families rebuilt, and lives redirected through faithful intervention, by Jesus Christ.

Lesson Pointer # 1

- **Divine Appointment and Sacred Duty (Ezekiel 33: 7-9)**

Now the Divine appointment in Ezekiel describes and establishes a profound spiritual covenant made between GOD and HIS chosen watchman, Ezekiel; therefore Ezekiel was to hear the word at GOD'S mouth, and warn the people from GOD (Ezekiel 33: 7). GOD calls spiritual watchmen to protect their people from moral and spiritual danger. Now, when GOD say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; and if thou watchman dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will GOD require at the watchman's hand (Ezekiel 33: 8). But in the next verse GOD offers both challenge and comfort, saying, nevertheless, if thou watchman warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; and if the wicked do not turn from his way, the wicked shall die in his iniquity; but thou watchman hast delivered thy soul (Ezekiel 33: 9). So when warning others of their wicked ways, whether through mentoring, counseling, or just speaking truth to power, one have fulfilled a sacred obligation before GOD, no matter how they might respond.

Lesson Pointer # 2

- **The Heart of GOD Revealed (Ezekiel 33: 10-11)**

Now GOD unveil HIS deep compassion and desire for redemption as GOD speaks directly to communities familiar with struggles and resilience. This speaks to those who is overwhelmed by their circumstances and past decision, saying, therefore, O thou son of man, speak unto the house of Israel; Thus ye speak, saying, if our transgressions and our sins be upon us, and we pine away in them, how should we then live (Ezekiel 33: 10)? Now GOD'S passionate response to the people is a declaration that challenges inflicting justice systems and offers hope for transformation. GOD instructs Ezekiel to, say unto them, As I live, the LORD GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel (Ezekiel 33: 11)?

Lesson Pointer # 3

- **Justice, Repentance, and Restoration (Ezekiel 33: 12-16a)**

GOD tells Ezekiel to warn the people against complacency and the danger of relying on past acts of righteousness. Saying, therefore, thou son of man, say unto the children of thy people, the righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him in the day of his transgressions: as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall thereby in the day that he turneth from his wickedness; neither shall the righteous be able to live for his righteousness in the day that he sinneth. When I shall say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousnesses shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it (Ezekiel 33: 12-13). GOD presents a practical path of repentance, by emphasizing that transformation requires both internal change and external action. This provides the blueprint for restorative justice that many believers have long practiced, by believing in the possibility of redemption while at the same time requiring concrete steps toward change. GOD tells Ezekiel, Again, when I say unto the wicked, Thou shall surely die; if he turn from his sin, and do that which is lawful and right; If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die (Ezekiel 33: 14-15). GOD concludes by promising complete restoration for those who genuinely repent. Saying, None of his sins that he hath committed shall be mentioned unto him (Ezekiel 33: 16a). Repenting helps individuals to rebuild their lives, and communities to rehabilitate former offenders. Repent, repent, turn from sin, and turn to GOD with evident, and be restored back to GOD through HIS Son Jesus Christ.

To Everything Turn, Turn, Turn!

Nuggets of the Lesson:

- 1) GOD covenant between GOD and man.
- 2) Speak and warn the wicked of their wicked ways.
- 3) Repent, Repent, Repent.
- 4) Know that justice, repentance, and restoration go hand in hand; why, because you cannot have justice without repentance, and you cannot have restoration without turning from sin and turning to GOD with evident.
- 5) When leaders who are watchman's does not warn the people of their sinful ways, they shall die in their sins; but their blood shall be required of by the leader who has been called by GOD as a watchman.