



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Ezekiel, Daniel Sermon Series  
Supports Session 1: Commissioned  
Sermon Title: "Enabled"  
Passage: Ezekiel 2:1-10

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### Connection to Ezekiel 3:8-21

God calls people to consistently proclaim His truth, and He commissions and enables us so we can proclaim it consistently and effectively.

### Introduction/Opening

Boot camp has a reputation for being tough, but necessary. Drill instructors begin the process of turning new recruits into seasoned soldiers prepared for battle.

According to Ezekiel 2, the Lord took Ezekiel through spiritual boot camp to strengthen him so he would be a durable prophet who would be faithful to proclaim God's Word to His rebellious people.

Growing disciples go through spiritual boot camp too. The Lord works in us to enable us to be faithful to Him as we share His Word with others. The Lord's work in Ezekiel's life sheds some light on the ways that He prepares us to be effective as we share His Word.

### Outline

1. He fills us with His Holy Spirit (vv. 1-2).
  - a. Ezekiel received a vision from the Lord that brought him to his knees in humble submission (1:22-28). That's when the Lord filled Ezekiel with His Spirit. In turn, he was able to stand up under the Lord's instruction and listen to what He had to say about the prophet's task.
  - b. Being enabled to speak God's truth to others requires a bended knee. Voices that rebel against God can intimidate a believer. However, something happens when we submit ourselves humbly before the Lord. Such a transformative response of humility results from a fresh vision of God's presence in our lives that prompts us to worship Him in the kind of complete submission that hushes us. In turn, the Lord gives us a fresh awareness of His presence and His power to work through us so we can carry out His plan.
2. He gives us His unique perspective (vv. 3-7).
  - a. The Lord had a unique perspective regarding His people. From His perspective, they had been taken into Babylonian captivity because of their rebellion against Him. Over a long stretch of time, He had worked patiently with them with a view toward guiding them to

repentance and renewal of their devotion to Him, but to no avail. They continued to rebel against Him. Their rebellion placed them under the hand of a foreign tyrant. Although He still intended for them to repent, He knew that their rebellious hearts would prevent them from surrendering to Him. Furthermore, they would take their rebellion out on anyone who spoke up for Him. Ezekiel needed to understand that they would not respond positively to God's message of repentance. Even so, God challenged Ezekiel to embrace His perspective by proclaiming the truth about Him faithfully and confidently.

- b. The Lord has a unique perspective regarding people today. From His perspective, individuals who refuse to have a personal relationship with Him through Christ eventually cultivate an attitude of hostility toward Him (James 4:4). Such an attitude produces a deaf ear to His message and a cold heart to His appeal to receive His gift of salvation through Christ. God also has a unique perspective on His people who grow cold in their walk with Him. Their unwillingness to trust Him completely moves them to search for other objects of their faith. They allow their circumstances to interpret how they feel about Him. They need to return to Him and allow Him to interpret how they feel about their circumstances. However, their hearts have turned cold toward Him, and they refuse to take His message of repentance seriously. God's perspective helps us to look past their coldness toward Him to see their need for Him.

3. He gives us a vibrant testimony (vv. 8-10).

- a. The Lord told Ezekiel to eat the scroll that had been extended to him. Ezekiel could see that the scroll the Lord had written included a solemn message of sorrow over what had become of His people. It also contained woes that provided warnings for them to heed if they continued to take the foolish path that had led them to captivity. The picture of eating the scroll implied that the message about God's truth needed to be consumed by Ezekiel for him to be effective in his proclamation. Only by consuming the scroll could he be consumed by it.
- b. The Lord continues to lead us to consume His Word. Thankfully, we have God's complete Word in our hands. He intends for us to read it, study it, and meditate on it. For that reason, taking in God's Word stands as one of the important spiritual disciplines for growing believers. We get into His Word so His Word can get into us. When we consume His Word, we can share His truth as a testimony based on our first-hand encounter instead of a lecture founded on second-hand information. When we speak from first-hand encounters with God's Word, we bear witness to Him in a convincing way. When we're bearing witness to Him through first-hand testimony, we're living out Jesus' command to His disciples (Acts 1:8).

## Conclusion

When we turn to the Lord and surrender to Him, we can trust Him to enable us to serve Him faithfully by sharing His truth. We can count on Him to fill us with His Spirit, give us His perspective, and nourish our first-hand testimony about Him.

Turn to Him now. Surrender to Him so He can enable you to live for Him.

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