

Ezekiel: Street Preacher to the Exiles

May 23, 2021

March Quarter

Lesson 12

OPENING QUESTION(S)

How have you followed in your parents' footsteps? When have you decided specifically to not follow their example?

EZEKIEL 18:1-3 (NLT)

- 1 Then another message came to me from the LORD:
- 2 “Why do you quote this proverb concerning the land of Israel: ‘The parents have eaten sour grapes, but their children’s mouths pucker at the taste’?
- 3 As surely as I live, says the Sovereign LORD, you will not quote this proverb anymore in Israel.

EZEKIEL 18:4-6 (NLT)

- 4 For all people are mine to judge—both parents and children alike. And this is my rule: The person who sins is the one who will die.
- 5 Suppose a certain man is righteous and does what is just and right.
- 6 He does not feast in the mountains before Israel's idols or worship them. He does not commit adultery or have intercourse with a woman during her menstrual period.

EZEKIEL 18:7-9 (NLT)

- 7 He is a merciful creditor, not keeping the items given as security by poor debtors. He does not rob the poor but instead gives food to the hungry and provides clothes for the needy.
- 8 He grants loans without interest, stays away from injustice, is honest and fair when judging others,
- 9 and faithfully obeys my decrees and regulations. Anyone who does these things is just and will surely live, says the Sovereign LORD.

EZEKIEL 18:30-32 (NLT)

- 30 Therefore, I will judge each of you, O people of Israel, according to your actions, says the Sovereign LORD. Repent, and turn from your sins. Don't let them destroy you!
- 31 Put all your rebellion behind you, and find yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O people of Israel?
- 32 I don't want you to die, says the Sovereign LORD. Turn back and live!"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What does God do when you try to turn from your old ways, but keep slipping back?
- 2. God had described Himself as “visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, unto the third and to the fourth generation” (Exodus 34:7). Now He says individuals pay for their sins, specifically saying the parents’ sin does not lie on the child. Scripture tells us that God is unchanging (Hebrews 13:8). Why does God seem to be changing His methods? Was He not satisfied with the previous arrangement? Is He admitting that He had made a mistake? Explain.

APPLICATION FOR ACTIVATION

- Think of problems in your life that you feel were caused by someone else. To what extent have you contributed to the problems yourself? What attitude should you have toward people who cause problems for you? What can you do to ease these problems?
- Look at the problems you have caused yourself. What attitude does God want you to have toward these problems? What can you do to correct them?