



Mighty in the Word

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (I Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

The Wise Still Seek Him

*of the
Lord
Jesus Christ*

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I'll Say What You Want Me to Say, Dear Lord.

These are easy words to write; however, as we review the lives of the prophets of the Lord God Almighty in the Old Testament - and in the New Testament, we shall find those, who like today, are men-pleasers and ready to speak forth a word to please them, while at the same time, saying the word came from the Lord God!

We need to take seriously the words, "I'll say what You want me to say, Dear Lord." There are many today who are enamored by the modern day prophets who give forth words; and people send money to them, to add to their millions they already have - believing them to be so won-der-ful. There are differences in the *prophets* of today and those in the Bible whom the Lord God called. Several things we could review to show the difference in the modern prophet and the Biblical prophets, but we will mention only one so as not to waste time. Look at the life style of *prophets* today and those in the Biblical days. Yes, the prophets in the Bible were not millionaires, but true worshipers of the Lord God. They walked in obedience speaking what the Lord God gave them.

Do we really want to "say what the Lord wants us to say"? Or, are we eager to speak what the people want to hear, and call it from God?

Let us take some time in the Book of Ezekiel, especially Chapters three and 33, where the Lord makes it clear He has called Ezekiel to speak forth the truth of God in Christ Jesus. The Lord is aware that His Truth is not accepted; however, that does not free a person from giving forth the Word of the Lord Jesus Christ.

God acknowledges that the House of Israel has fallen away to the gods of this world (Ps 115). But in Ezekiel 3, God tells Ezekiel to "eat this roll." Ezekiel is to devour the word, know the word, and then, "go speak unto the house of Israel." You cannot share that which you do not have in you. You cannot share what is not yours. You cannot share that of which you know nothing. God tells Ezekiel that he is to "eat that thou findest; eat this roll" (Eze 3.3). He goes on in verse 4 and says to Ezekiel, "Son of man, cause thy belly to eat, and fill thy bowels with this roll that I give thee." Ezekiel tells us "Then did I eat *[it]*; and it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness." The Word was life to Ezekiel. I believe Ezekiel understood what it was that he was to do. Ezekiel must know beyond the words, the depth of

in obedience to the Lord, go forth willing to "say what the Lord wants us to say," regardless of the response of those to whom we are sent. We are called to speak forth the Word of the Lord, His Truth, as He sends us forth for His glory. We must walk in obedience speaking that which the Lord Jesus Christ gives to us for others. Remember the Lord's words as you read the following two verses. Read them carefully in Ezekiel 33.4, 5 also.

Eze 3:18 When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked *[man]* shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

Eze 3:19 Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

Are you willing to speak the Truth of the Lord Jesus Christ? Are you willing to say to the Lord as did the Psalmist,

Psa 71:15 My mouth shall shew forth thy righteousness *[and]* thy salvation all the day...

"I'll say what You want me to say."

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Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

what the words mean, trying to encourage the people to eat with him the Word of the Lord that they might have life.

The Lord makes it clear that Ezekiel is not sent to a people of another language, to a people who will not understand the Word that He is to give. Ezekiel is told that he is being sent to his own people, a people who have known the Lord God, but have turned away, and are serving themselves - by virtue of worshiping false gods. Interesting that the Lord God makes it clear, tells Ezekiel that those to whom he is being sent will reject the word; they will not hearken unto his words that he shall give to his own people, whose hearts are hardened against the Lord.

This is a strong word, a hard word, to be told to go to a people, your own community to speak the truth - knowing they have already rejected the Word, and shall continue rejecting the Word, thus rejecting the Lord God, Himself.

God prepares Ezekiel and tells him that the words He is giving to him for the people, he is to receive them in his heart - and he is to hear with his ears. He is to first take the words himself.

How often do those standing on the pulpitum Sunday mornings give forth words, words that sound good, feel good, - and all because they are like the people to whom they are *speaking*.

The Lord God called Ezekiel, and others, to come out from among them that he might give forth the Word of the Lord. Ezekiel 3.14 tells us "the hand of the Lord was strong upon [Ezekiel]. It is then that he could say, as he did several times, **"Thus saith the Lord . . ."** This is not heard said by those standing on the pulpitudes, because they many times are not giving forth the Word of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord is life, and gives life to the hearers, new life in Him.

Before going to the people to whom he was being sent, Ezekiel sat for seven days astonished. I believe he was there to *empty himself of himself* that he might hear the Lord, might better understand what it was the Lord was saying to him, might better understand his commission from the Lord.

One needs to be empty of himself to hear what the Lord has to say, and also to understand the Word given him by the Lord, to be able to go forth in the Name of the Lord doing His bidding.

Eze 3:17 Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.

Eze 3:18 When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked *[man]* shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

Eze 3:19 Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

Eze 3:20 Again, When a righteous *[man]* doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

Eze 3:21 Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous *[man]*, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul.

Eze 3:22 And the hand of the LORD was there upon me; and he said unto me, Arise, go forth into the plain, and I will there talk with thee.

Read and re-read this passage and then read it again in prayer to understand what the Lord is saying to you, as you say, "I'll say what You want me to say, Dear Lord." Will you? Do we say we will do what the Lord wants, then deciding which part of the commission He gives - we will say? Do we really want to stand with those who have gone before us and have given their lives for the Lord Jesus Christ? Are you willing to give the Word of the Lord to your family, your friends, the people in your community where you live, where you work?

Let us continue with this passage from Ezekiel.

Eze 3:23 Then I arose, and went forth into the plain: and, behold, the glory of the LORD stood there, as the glory which I saw by the river of Chebar: and I fell on my face.

Eze 3:24 Then the spirit entered into me, and set me upon my feet, and spake with me, and said unto me, Go, shut thyself within thine house.

Eze 3:25 But thou, O son of man, behold, they shall put bands upon thee, and shall bind thee with them, and thou shalt not go out among them:

Eze 3:26 And I will make thy tongue cleave to the roof of thy mouth, that thou shalt be dumb, and shalt not be to them a repressor: for they *[are]* a rebellious house.

Eze 3:27 But when I speak with thee, I will open thy mouth, and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; He that heareth, let him hear; and he that forbeareth, let him forbear: for they *[are]* a rebellious house.

Verse 23 is powerful, beyond words, and is an experience that will cause one to fall down before the King of kings, Lord of lords. It is beyond knowing to experience the glory of the Lord. Ezekiel also experienced the glory of the Lord by the river of Chebar. The glory of the Lord is strong, though glorious, and one can do nothing but fall on their face under the power of the Lord God Almighty coming down among us. We cannot begin to comprehend or experience what Ezekiel did when the glory of the Lord came down upon him with such power that he fell on his face. Oh, there are those who have experienced the glory of the Lord, but - few there be, I do believe.

Interesting that as Ezekiel experienced this presence of the Lord God Almighty, and was strengthened by the presence of the glory of the Lord, we must read on to know that the Lord does not reveal His glory for naught. It was to strengthen Ezekiel, to encourage him, as Ezekiel was a chosen vessel of the Lord - to go forth with the Word to a people whose hearts were hardened, and would not receive what the Lord God Almighty had for them.

Eze 3:7 But the house of Israel will not hearken unto thee; for they will not hearken unto me: for all the house of Israel *[are]* impudent and hardhearted.

How hard it is to be sent to someone to tell them of the Lord, knowing they will not hear, will not hearken unto the Word of the Lord. And, yet, we must go forth