

## Led by the Spirit

Ezekiel 2:1-3: 14

6/15/03

### Intro

- Father's Day today
- Dr. Wood and his comments this week

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These verses we will study today are an account of the calling of Ezekiel to serve God. Throughout the passage we see the theme of his life, that he would be led by the Spirit of God. That is where we will gain insight for ourselves in being led by the Spirit of God.

*Today we will look for insights in being led by the Spirit of God.*

### I. Not led by fear.

#### A. God has not given us a spirit of fear

Vs 6

- Taking a stand for God will require an understanding of fear

**II Timothy 1:7**, "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of love, power, and a sound mind."

- There are many things to fear ...  
**People, obstacles, failure**
- **Vs 8-9 People; I have made your face as hard as their face...**

**Illus** – The word "harden," or "strengthen" is the same as Ezekiel's name – "God will strengthen."

### B. Do not fear obstacles

- Thorns and thistles are pictures of the obstacles of the world.

**Illus** – When Adam sinned, thorns and thistles would be the result.

**Illus-** in Jesus' parable of the sower, the thorns represent the worries, riches, and pleasures of this world.

**Illus** – When Jesus was on trial, they pressed a crown of thorns into His head...

- Doing God's will is not supposed to be easy.
- **But God makes us sufficient to the task.**

**Illus** – **Pastor Ron Mehl reminded us that God's will for us would often mean a challenge much bigger than ourselves, it would require God.**

### C. Do not fear failure

Vs 2:5,7; 3:7

- God simply asks that we be found faithful
- Fear of failure has stopped many people from attempting what God has in mind for them.
- God does not promise that everything we do will be successful, we are not judged in that basis.

**Illus-** when speaking at a Muslim mosque or talking to owners of pornography stores, I made no converts, but God still found it important.

- "they will know a prophet is among them..."

## II. Eat the Scroll

### A. Don't eat what the world eats

Vs 8

- "You are what you eat"
- God is calling us to be different than the world in listening to God's Word.

**Illus – They were taking in inputs that affected their soul**

**Illus – When I was in prayer and fasting and would juice, what a difference it made.**

**Isaiah 55:11**, "So shall My Word be which proceeds from My mouth; it shall not return to me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it."

### B. The Spirit uses the Word of God

- But we must have it within us for the Holy Spirit to use it.

**Illus -** The scroll was sweet as honey

**Jeremiah 15:16**, "Your words were found and I ate them, and your words became for me a joy and a delight of my heart; for I have been called by Your name, O Lord God of Hosts."

### C. Take it into your heart

- And listen closely
- "My hearts have a written on your heart."

**Illus – The New Covenant.**

**Illus – Chuck Smith and the importance of reading God's Word over and over.**

## III. Filled by the Spirit

Vs 2;2; 3:12, 14

### A. The Spirit lifted him up

- The Spirit came into him
- The Holy Spirit is given to all who believe
- But the Lord asks us to be filled with the Spirit of God -

**Ephesians 5:18**, "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Holy Spirit."

**Zechariah 4:6**, "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the LORD of hosts.

### B. Be aware of anger and bitterness

Vs 14

- We can appreciate Ezekiel's honesty
- But anger and bitterness can get in the way of being used of God
- But notice the next statement...

### C. The hand of the Lord strengthens

- This refers to the strengthening of the Lord

**Illus – The hand of the Lord was on Elijah and he outran Ahab to Jezreel 25 miles. I Kings 18:46**

## Conclusion

**There are many different ways we could live, but to live by being led by the Spirit of God is the most satisfying of all.**

### Note:

*"Son of man, eat this roll, admit this revelation into thy understanding, take it, take the meaning of it, understand it aright, admit it into thy heart, apply it, and be affected with it; imprint it in thy mind, ruminat and chew the cud upon it; take it as it is entire, and make no difficulty of it, nay, take a pleasure in it as thou dost in thy meat, and let thy soul be nourished and strengthened by it; let it be meat and drink to thee, and as thy necessary food; be full of it, as thou art of the meat thou hast eaten."*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible : Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*, Eze 3:1. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1996, c1991.