

## To Be a Watchman

Ezekiel 33:1-20

8/17/03

### Intro

- Praise God for all the workers from our church that served at Boise Eliot School.

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Very early in Ezekiel's life as a prophet, he was told of God that he would be a watchman to the house of Israel. It was a **watchman's job** to stand on the wall of the city and be on the alert for anything that could harm the people. If he saw any danger, he was to blow the trumpet and alert the people.

In Ezekiel 33, God tells Ezekiel that the trumpet needs to be sounded. He has a message for Israel that is vital to understand.

But he also gives Ezekiel some insights into what it means to be a watchman for his generation.

This is important for us, because we are also to be watchmen for our generation.

### **These, then, are the insights into what is necessary for us as spiritual watchmen on the wall.**

#### **I. You must see what others do not see**

##### A. A watchman, then, actually keeps watch

- Many people are blind to spiritual considerations

**Isaiah 42:20**, "You have seen many things, but you do not observe them; your ears are open, but none hears."

- "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."
- **Staying alert to spiritual matters.**

**1 Thessalonians 5:5 -6**, "We are not of night nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober."

### B. Responding to the Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit sounds the trumpet in our hearts, and we must learn to respond to the leading of the Lord.

**Illus – How much trouble could we have saved ourselves in our lives if we would have just listened to the Spirit within us.**

**Rom 8:14**, "For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God."

### C. Spiritual insight comes from knowing God's Word

- This should be the desire of those called to be watchmen for our generation.

**1 Corinthians 2:15-16**, "But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ."

**Acts 20:26 -27**, "Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God."

- In order to be able to declare the counsel of God, we must first know the counsel of God.
- This requires knowing God's Word.

## II. You must be willing to blow the trumpet

### A. Some people don't like trumpets

- Sin is an extension of freedom, and so many feel that God is a restriction on theory freedom.

**Jeremiah 6:16-17**, “Where the good way is, walk in it; and you will find rest for your souls. But they said, “We will not walk in it.’ And I set watchmen over you, saying, ‘Listen to the sound of the trumpet!’ But they said, “We will not listen.’

**Illus** - I stood next to a man from Scotland on a bus in Amsterdam, and **he was uncomfortable with God.**

### B. May we not be afraid of other people's opinion

- Some people are afraid to be a watchman because they are held captive by other people's opinion.

**John 12:42-43**, “Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; **for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.**

### C. Blow the trumpet because you believe in the message

- The gospel is the greatest news the world has ever heard.

- When our faith is strengthened, it causes us to become a witness for the Lord.

**Acts 1:8**, “**but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit** has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

## III. You must speak with God's heart

### A. Because it's God's message

- This is a very important key to remember.

**Vs 7 – “You will hear a message from Me...”**

- There's no need to add anything to it.
- **But what is it that we most often add?** We add ourselves.

**Illus – The African pastor who told someone**, “And you'll lose your salvation...” he wanted to threaten them to get them to stop sinning.

### B. Let your speech always be with grace

- This is what Paul wrote after he learned the hard way.
- Grace is God's heart.

**Vs 11 – God takes no pleasure in the destruction of the wicked**

**Illus** - There's no need to be pushy salesmen.

- **It's very important that people want to be saved!!** They need to come because they are thanking God for His forgiveness. They need to come with a willing heart.

**Romans 10:15, “Just as it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.’”**

- Your feet are only beautiful if you speak with God's heart.

C. The gospel is actually good news!

- Jesus did it all...

**Vs 12-16, Our righteousness is not enough**

- Our righteousness will not deliver us

**Illus – God is pleased simply when we turn around from worldliness.**

Conclusion
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**To be used of God to touch someone's life is one of the most exciting things that can happen to us.**