

EZEKIEL - A PROFILE IN OBEDIENCE

Ezekiel was a prophet to the Jews in the final years of Jerusalem's existence before Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, destroyed the city and the temple of God. He was taken as an exile to Babylon and ministered to a remnant of Jews there.

God's will for this priest turned prophet, was not going to be easy. He was to bring a message of doom to a people who would not listen! This would be hard! Being an exile in a foreign country was not easy. Sharing this message of judgment was not easy. The people would mistreat him, and even tie him up with ropes so that he could not leave his house. As an object lesson to the Jews, God caused him to become mute, except when he spoke a message from the Lord. This whole experience was a bitter pill to swallow. If there is one takeaway from his life that stands out it is that **he always did what God told him to do.**

There are three examples where the prophet demonstrated an incredible commitment to obey God no matter what was asked of him.

Ezekiel 12 - The prophet demonstrates what living under siege in Jerusalem would be like and also the sad fate of the Jewish king. "I did just as I was commanded." 12:7

Ezekiel 37:7 - The prophet obeys when God tells him to speak to dry bones.
In spite of the crazy command of God, he did it! "*So I prophesied as I was commanded*"

Ezekiel 24:18- The prophet obeys and does not grieve at the sudden death of his wife.
"So IN THE MORNING, I went out and spoke to the people the word of the LORD
IN THE EVENING, my wife died
IN THE MORNING, *I did just as I had been commanded.*"

Here are 5 Life Lessons on OBEDIENCE from this prophet:

I. OBEDIENCE IN ALL WAYS, ALWAYS

Ezekiel did what he was commanded to do.
1 Sam 15:13-16; 18-23; Jn2:6

II. OBEDIENCE IS OFTEN COSTLY

Jeremiah 26:8; Heb. 5:8 Mt 16:24; Jn 15:18

III. OBEDIENCE CONFIRMS THE REALITY OF ONES FAITH IN GOD.

The people knew Ezekiel was a true prophet because of his obedience 24:24,27
Jn 15:14; Rom 6:17; Philemon 21; 1 Pet 1:14-16; 1 Jn 2:3-6

IV. PERSONAL OBEDIENCE IS A POWERFUL LESSON TO OTHERS

The exiles not only knew Ezekiel was a true prophet by his obedience, they also knew God did what He did to Ezekiel to try and give them an important message. Vs 19,22

V. OBEDIENCE GLORIFY GOD. 27

"Then you will know that I am the LORD". (Over 60 times in the book). Had Prophets like Ezekiel not obeyed God and prophesied what God had spoken, God would not have received glory when the prophecy became a reality. Jn 4:34; 1 Pet 2:11,12

"OBEY GOD AND LEAVE ALL THE CONSEQUENCES TO HIM."

"IF GOD TELLS YOU TO RUN THROUGH A WALL, RUN. GOD WILL KNOCK A HOLE IN THE WALL FOR YOU TO RUN THROUGH." Charles Stanley