

Ezekiel 33:30-33

Pastor's Desk – February 23, 2020



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(30) "As for you, son of man, the children of your people are talking about you beside the walls and in the doors of the houses; and they speak to one another, everyone saying to his brother, "Please come and hear what the word is that comes from the LORD." (31) So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain. (32) Indeed you are to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for they hear your words, but they do not do them. (33) And when this comes to pass"surely it will come"then they will know that a prophet has been among them."

Ezekiel describes something that happens often. People delight to listen to a good sermon and to be entertained. They enjoy the oratory or perhaps the speaker himself and his style of speaking. Some preachers use a good

deal of humor and have the audience laughing throughout their sermons as if they are stand-up comedians. One could have a great time at church!

The prophet describes it as going to a concert. Everyone enjoys good music, but after the music stops and the audience leaves the concert hall, what lasting effect does it have? God says that is how His people treat Him. They have a desire to hear what God has to say, but they want to be entertained more than instructed.

In Ezekiel's day, they wanted to see the prophet lie down on his side for 390 days. Some approached his ministry as a kind of carnival act. Perhaps they said to one another, "I wonder what God will have Ezekiel do next? I bet He'll have him hopping around his tent on one foot." They did not make the connection that what Ezekiel did portray what God would do to Israel. The people, by and large, merely came around for the spectacle of it.

Maybe Ezekiel was an excellent speaker too. Perhaps he could really "give it to 'em." Indeed, people love to hear the song, but they do not want to dance the dance!

It all comes back to these questions: Why are we in God's church? What are our fundamental reasons for being in God's house? Are we seeking satisfaction for ourselves? Are we having an itch scratched? What are our motivations?

Of course, the best motivations are that we are seeking the truth and seeking to please God.

At His service,
Pr. Teddy Santos