

EZEKIEL
EDUCATING IN EXILE
HARD FOREHEADS, STIFF-NECKS & STONE HEARTS

“BUT IF YOUR HEART TURNS AWAY AND YOU WILL NOT HEAR AND OBEY, BUT ARE DRAWN AWAY AND WORSHIP OTHER GODS AND SERVE THEM, I DECLARE TO YOU TODAY THAT YOU WILL NOT LIVE LONG IN THE LAND WHICH YOU CROSS THE JORDAN TO ENTER AND POSSESS.”
DEUTERONOMY 30:17&18

1. THE HEART: A Consistent message both Jeremiah & Ezekiel
Ezekiel 11:19, 18:31, 36:26; Jeremiah 5:23&24, 7:23&24

When God’s people finally came into the Land of Promise, God is very clear on the rules in Deuteronomy 10:15 & 16. Simple instructions.

However, what was initially _____ (Deut 10:15),
has after 800 years, required _____ (Ezek 36:26)

EZEKIEL OVERVIEW:

Chapters 1 -3: Ezekiel’s Call

Chapters 4 -24: God’s Glory Departs

Chapters 25 - 32: All Nations answer to God

Chapters 33 - 48 God’s Glory Returns

2. FILLING TO BE SPILLING

Ezekiel 2:1-10 & 3:1-4

God fills Ezekiel with _____ and _____
as He calls him.

Ezekiel 3:7- 11

And God _____ Ezekiel for the call and says _____
even when He lets Ezekiel know that it is possibly an impossible mission.

3. A TITLE OF ENDEARMENT

Ezekiel 3:17 & 33:1-7

Ezekiel is further _____ as God calls him _____

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

1. In this lesson we see all the references over and over again to being rebellious and stubborn and stiff-necked with how it reveals and has led to a hard heart, and in this book, “a heart of stone.” Share your experience you may have of this truth.

2. Share any personal testimony, experience or example you have of this transformation/transplant of Ezekiel 36:26 “Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you, and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a new heart of flesh.” Did it come easily or like the exiles in Ezekiel, did it come through pain, loss or difficulty?

3. Have you ever, like Ezekiel, been called to a difficult or challenging or sacrificial task that you, like Ezekiel, experienced God equipping you?

4. God gives Ezekiel the title of “Watchman.” Jesus called James and John “Sons of Thunder.” Jesus also renamed Simon to Peter, which meant “Rock.” James, John and Peter were Jesus’ inner circle within the Disciples. I believe this is intentional. God says words bring life or death, so how much more life or death might a name or title bring? Share the power of a “term of endearment” or a nickname you may have or have had that either communicated value and empowered or because of someone’s carelessness or brokenness may have done the opposite.

* A little homework: To whom might you be able to empower or give value by giving a title or term of endearment or nickname to this week?