

Connection

Do you remember a time when you forgot to prepare for something in your life, and as a result everything went sideways? Take a moment to share or reflect on the memory.

Content

We are in week four of "Speaking into the CHAOS," a series focused on the craziness we face in our lives and what the Bible has to say about it. As Billy takes us through the book of Ezekiel, chapters 1, 2 and 3 focus on the call on Ezekiel's life, while chapters 4-24 focus on what Ezekiel did in response to his call. In this message we examined similarities between faulty, godless thinking in Ezekiel's day and secular thinking in our day.

1. The phrase "Then you will know that I am the Lord" appears 72 times in Scripture with 58 of those times in the book of Ezekiel. Why do you think this is significant?

2. Read Timothy 4:3-4. Most people today believe in relative truth: the idea that everyone has their own truths which are true for them. This stands in contrast to accepting there is a definitive truth and a true God. Many would simply rather look for answers that will cater to what they wish to believe than to what is true.

Is there someone in your life that this applies to who you can be praying comes to know our Lord?

Clever Doesn't Mean Right

3. Read Ezekiel 12:21-28 and Ezekiel 12:10-13. Several statements have become popular over the years that aren't actually true about God. For one, "follow your heart" can be poor advice because the Bible says the heart is deceptive. What is another statement or saying that is popular but perhaps you question if its Biblical?

Impressive Doesn't Mean Wise

4. When we are impressed with someone, we may be tempted to listen to and trust their opinion. But we need to be aware that they may not be speaking for Christ. Such is the case in Ezekiel 13:1-9. The Lord is against those who speak "false words and lying visions."

Who is someone that you respect or have an affinity for, that may fall into this category?

What criteria do you use to evaluate if someone's words are worth listening to?

Wishful Doesn't Mean True

There is a lot of wishful thinking out there, including from ourselves. For example, when someone dies, we can find ourselves saying "they are in a better place" but unless we know they knew Christ, that isn't true.

5. Read Ezekiel 13:10-16 and Jeremiah 2:13. There perhaps isn't a thing in life we desire more than peace. What does the analogy of "whitewashed walls" mean here?

What is an example of that in your own thinking, either now or in the past?

What other passages of Scripture remind you of the importance of a firm foundation in Christ?

Spiritual Doesn't Mean Conclusive

6. Read Ezekiel 14:1-8. In our culture today, many people say "I am not religious but I am spiritual." Perhaps they accept there is something after death but don't wish to accept Christ. How is this a good thing, and yet bad as well?

Commitment

Read Isaiah 44:20 and Acts 4:12. What are you hanging onto that you are placing before God? Perhaps it is something you are placing as your priority in life and it is standing in the way of your faith growing.

7. How can you this week make sure to place God at the center of your life, and take any distractions and push them aside?