

Reading assignment for September 3-9; Lamentations 2-5; Ezekiel 1-18

Memory: Ezekiel 11:19 *“Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh.”*

Consider:

- 1) The book of Lamentations illustrates the reality that people who turn from the Lord live in a condition of hopelessness. The scriptures also teach that hopelessness can only be reversed once we turn to the Lord. Read this book with the thought in mind that the Church today is strategically positioned to minister to people mired in hopelessness.
- 2) In chapters 2 and 3 we read of God commissioning Ezekiel for prophetic ministry.
 - a. Notice God’s charge and encouragement in chapter 2.
 - b. Notice in 3:4-9, God commissioned him to minister in a setting where he knew the culture and language of the people.
 - c. What can we learn from these two chapters?
- 3) In 3:16-27, God called Ezekiel to be a spiritual watchman for the people. If he did not warn the people of potential danger of sin, their blood would be on his hands. If he did minister to the people he would be guiltless, their blood would be on their own hands. How does this relate to the Church today?
- 4) Ezekiel 8 records 3 dominant sins that brought God’s judgment on the people: Idolatry (8:10), sensual worship (8:14) and people turning their backs to the temple (8:16). How are these sins replicated today and what can we learn from this story?
- 5) What significance do you see in God’s promise in Ezekiel 11:16 to be *“a little sanctuary”* for His people who would be scattered to other countries?
- 6) What great promise did God make in Ezekiel 13?