



SURPRISE

Ezekiel

Spiritual Integrity [Ezekiel 14:1-14]

Disturbing Behavior

A. Lack of Spiritual Integrity [1-3]

B. Rampant Idolatry [4,5]

Syncretism/False Prophets

C. Resisting Personal Responsibility [7-10]

God's Response

A. Call to Repentance [6] Acts 3:11-26

B. Call to Personal Responsibility [12-14] Mark 1:14f

C. Faithfulness [11]

[Psalm 36:5, Lam. 3:22-23, Heb. 10:23 I Cor. 1:9]

[1] Provision [Philippians 4:19]

[2] Encouragement [Philippians 1:6]

[3] Comfort [2 Corinthians 1:3-4]

[4] Strength [2 Corinthians 12:9]

[5] Support [Hebrews 10:25]

Discussion Questions/Prayer

1] Read Ezekiel 14:6. What idols have you set up in your life? How does idolatry affect your relationship with the Lord?

2] Read Ezekiel 14:9-10. What does it say about the seriousness of both speaking and seeking truth when God says He will punish not only the false prophet but also the insincere person who sought answers from the false prophet?

3] Read Ezekiel 14:12-14. Have you ever been tempted to think that, because of family and church ties, you were right with God? What does this verse say about such an idea?

4] Pray asking God to examine your heart and give you an awareness of the idols that you have set up in your life. Then repent and ask for the strength to turn away from these idols, and to deepen your relationship with God thanking Him for his faithfulness.

Ezekiel 14:1-14 Then certain of the elders of Israel came to me and sat before me. ² And the word of the Lord came to me: ³ “Son of man, these men have taken their idols into their hearts, and set the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces. Should I indeed let myself be consulted by them?

⁴ Therefore speak to them and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: “Any one of the house of Israel who takes his idols into his heart and sets the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and yet comes to the prophet, I the Lord will answer him as he comes with the multitude of his idols, ⁵ that I may lay hold of the hearts of the house of Israel, who are all estranged from me through their idols.”

⁶ “Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: **Repent and turn away from your idols, and turn away your faces from all your abominations.**

⁷ For any one of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who sojourn in Israel, who separates himself from me, taking his idols into his heart and putting the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and yet comes to a prophet to consult me through him, I the Lord will answer him myself.

⁸ And I will set my face against that man; I will make him a sign and a byword and cut him off from the midst of my people, and you shall know that I am the Lord.

⁹ And if the prophet is deceived and speaks a word, I, the Lord, have deceived that prophet, and I will stretch out my hand against him and will destroy him from the midst of my people Israel. ¹⁰ And they shall bear their punishment—the punishment of the prophet and the punishment of the inquirer shall be alike—

¹¹ that the house of Israel may no more go astray from me, nor defile themselves anymore with all their transgressions, but that they may be my people and I may be their God, declares the Lord God.”

¹² And the word of the Lord came to me: ¹³ “Son of man, when a land sins against me by acting faithlessly, and I stretch out my hand against it and break its supply of bread and send famine upon it, and cut off from it man and beast, ¹⁴ even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver but their own lives by their righteousness, declares the Lord God

Psalm 36:5 Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

Lamentations 3:22-23 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; ²³ they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

I Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.