



SURPRISE

Ezekiel

Standing in the Gap [Ezekiel 22:30]

A. Familiar Picture [7 Sins found in Ezekiel 22:6-12]

- 1] Shedding of blood: [6, 25]
- 2] Disdaining parents/elders [7a]
- 3] Extorting of the sojourner [7b, 29a]
- 4] Mistreating the fatherless and the widow [7c, 29b]
- 5] Disrespecting holy things and profaning Sabbaths [8, 26]
- 6] Embracing Depravity [slander and lewdness] [9]
- 7] Practicing Sexual Immorality [10]

B. Our Response [Living for God's Glory]

- 1] Loving our neighbor [live authentically]
Mark 12:30-31 [James 2:8, I Peter 1:22-23]
- 2] Honoring our Elders [Parents . . .] **Deuteronomy 5:16**
- 3] Practicing compassion with the quartet of the vulnerable **James 1:27 [Hebrews 13:2]**
- 4] Pursuing Holiness [Individual/Church] **I Peter 1:13-16**
[We can not be a “Do as I say, not as I do [people] culture”]
- 5] Cherishing Holy Moments
 - a] Personally [live a daily life of worship] **Philippians 4:8-9**
 - b] Community [make worshiping together a priority]
Acts 2:42-47 [Psalm 133:1]
- 6] Living with Honor and Integrity **Proverbs 11:3**
- 7] Committing to Sexual Purity **I Thessalonians 4:3-5**

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;⁴ that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, ⁵ not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; . . .

Discussion Questions/Prayer

- 1] Read Mark 12:30-31 and James 2:8. What is the second greatest commandment according to Jesus and why does James call this commandment the royal law in James 2:8?
- 2] Read Proverbs 11:3. What insight does Solomon give us regarding the choice we can make every day to live with honor and integrity? What is the result of a lack of obedience [crookedness/treacherousness] in this area?
- 3] Read I Thessalonians 4:3-5. What is the will of God regarding sexual purity?
- 4] Pray for God to give us the strength to stand in the gap and be a light in the darkness as we live for His glory.

Ezekiel 22:23-30 And the word of the Lord came to me:

²⁴ “Son of man, say to her, You are a land that is not cleansed or rained upon in the day of indignation.

²⁵ The conspiracy of her prophets [first because they were the primary evil influencers] in her midst is like a roaring lion tearing the prey; they have devoured human lives; they have taken treasure and precious things; they have made many widows in her midst.

²⁶ Her priests [evil influence second only to the prophets] have done violence to my law and have profaned my holy things. They have made no distinction between the holy and the common, neither have they taught the difference between the unclean and the clean, and they have disregarded my Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them.

²⁷ Her princes in her midst are like wolves tearing the prey, shedding blood, destroying lives to get dishonest gain.

²⁸ And her prophets have smeared whitewash for them, seeing false visions and divining lies for them, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord God,’ when the Lord has not spoken.

²⁹ The people of the land have practiced extortion and committed robbery. They have oppressed the poor and needy, and have extorted from the sojourner without justice.

³⁰ And I sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none.

Mark 12:30-31 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Deuteronomy 5:16 “Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

James 1:27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

I Peter 1:13-16 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

Philippians 4:8-9 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Proverbs 11:3 The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.