



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

When God's Truth Gets You Rejected July 18, 2021

(Ezekiel 2:1-3:4) ¹ He said to me, "Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you." ² As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me.

³ He said: "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me to this very day. ⁴ The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says.' ⁵ And whether they listen or fail to listen—for they are a rebellious people—they will know that a prophet has been among them. ⁶ And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them or their words. Do not be afraid, though briars and thorns are all around you and you live among scorpions. Do not be afraid of what they say or be terrified by them, though they are a rebellious people. ⁷ You must speak my words to them, whether they listen or fail to listen, for they are rebellious. ⁸ But you, son of man, listen to what I say to you. Do not rebel like that rebellious people; open your mouth and eat what I give you."

⁹ Then I looked, and I saw a hand stretched out to me. In it was a scroll, ¹⁰ which he unrolled before me. On both sides of it were written words of lament and mourning and woe.

³ ¹ And he said to me, "Son of man, eat what is before you, eat this scroll; then go and speak to the people of Israel." ² So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat.

³ Then he said to me, "Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it." So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.

⁴ He then said to me: "Son of man, go now to the people of Israel and speak my words to them.

1. Why do think Jesus sent the Twelve out in pairs? What can we learn from this in our own mission efforts at home and overseas?

2. Why did Jesus perform miracles in connection with his saving mission? Why did he give the disciples authority to perform miracles? Why doesn't Jesus do the same for us?
3. What purpose did a staff serve? Why did Jesus prohibit the Twelve from taking along bread, a bag, money, and an extra shirt?
4. We make sure that we provide for the missionaries we send to foreign lands. But what application might Jesus' words in verses 8-9 have for synod's foreign missionaries? What application do they have for us as each of us shares the gospel?
5. Why did Jesus instruct the Twelve to "stay put" once they were welcomed into someone's home?
6. How might we apply the words of verse 10 to our own outreach efforts?
7. Agree or disagree and why? Shaking off the dust of one's feet is a judgment against the unbeliever. Should we issue such warnings? If so, when and how?
8. How does the word "repent" summarize the message we Christians share with the lost?
9. Evaluate the following statement. "I'm not much of a missionary. I've never managed to talk one person into coming to church."
10. List some things we can do as individuals and as a congregation to encourage our fellow missionaries at home and abroad.