

God's Strangest Prophet In the Craziest of Times

"Preaching Among the Scorpions"

Intro:

1. Ezekiel was a man who was called to proclaim God's _____ to people who didn't want to _____ what He had to say.
2. The people of God had _____ against God and were _____ of gross immorality, injustice, and idolatry, yet saw nothing _____ with it.
3. The hardest people to _____ with God's word are those who have a false _____ of who God _____ and what the _____ is. (Titus 1:16)

I. The people Ezekiel was called to preach to. (Ezekiel 2:3-4)

1. The word for rebellious carries the idea of "breaking of the _____"
 - a. The idea is that they are not only rebellious, but they are _____, _____-hearted, and _____-headed.
2. Why were they so hard-headed and hard-hearted?
 - a. They would rather hear _____ and be comforted in their _____ rather than face the harshness of the _____ that would bring _____ and repentance.
 - b. They had heard the message before and since _____ wasn't swift, they assumed it wasn't _____.
3. Because Ezekiel wasn't telling them what they _____ to hear, they _____ him for it. (Matthew 21:33-41)

II. How do you share the message of God when this is the attitude?

1. What Not to Do.
 - a. We keep the message to _____.
 - b. We _____ the message to the point where it no longer resembles the message we were given.

- c. We speak the truth _____ any love
2. So what are we called to do?
 - a. Speak the _____ in _____.
 - b. Be _____ regardless of the _____.
 - c. Don't be _____ (Ezekiel 2:6)

III. How God Makes Us Faithful Witnesses.

1. It starts with a _____ of the glory of God. (Ezekiel 1)
2. He fills us with His _____ (Ezekiel 2:2) (Acts 4:29)
3. He gives us His _____ (Ezekiel 2:9-10)

The Apostle's Creed

P: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth

C: *We embrace God, the Father Almighty as creator of all*

P: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord

C: *We proclaim Jesus as Lord*

P: He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary

C: *We stand and boldly state that to us, a child is given*

P: He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

C: *We proclaim that Jesus died for the sins of all*

P: He descended into hell.

C: *We will bow down to Jesus, who marched victoriously over Satan and sin*

P: He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

C: *We believe that Jesus will come again with the power and the authority to judge all*

P: I believe in the Holy Spirit,

C: *We embrace the Holy Spirit as the sanctifier of our lives*

P: the holy Christian Church,

C: *We profess to be the church. This is God's house. Let Him rule over us. We worship the Triune God in this place.*

P: the communion of saints,

C: *We are all saints. We are a royal priesthood.*

P: the resurrection of the body,

C: *We boldly proclaim that Jesus is the resurrected one and that He has the power to raise the dead back to life*

P: and the life everlasting.

C: *We believe that eternal life is ours, not by anything that we have done, but by God's grace and as a result of Jesus' death on the cross. Amen.*