

The Exile Symbolized - Ezekiel 12:1-28

Topics: Complacency, Delay, Despair, Doubt, Fear, Future, Instructions, Listening, Obedience, People, Punishment, Questions, Rebellion, Slavery, Understanding, Witnessing

Open It

1. When have you discovered—too late—that you were wrong to assume that you or your belongings were safe?
- * 2. What is your favorite (stage, television, movie) drama, and why do you find it compelling?

Explore It

3. What was God's description of the rebelliousness of Israel? (12:1-2)
4. What did God command Ezekiel to do in order to "act out" the prophecy he was giving? (12:3-6)
5. How did Ezekiel report that he responded to God's command? (12:7)
6. How did God tell Ezekiel to interpret his actions to make them clear to the people? (12:8-11)
7. According to the prophecy, what would happen to the prince of Jerusalem? (12:12-14)
- * 8. What point did God wish to make by scattering the inhabitants of Jerusalem? (12:15)
- * 9. For what purpose did God intend to spare a few people from "sword, famine and plague"? (12:16)
10. What was the symbolic meaning of the way God told Ezekiel to eat his food? (12:17-20)
11. What proverb was heard frequently in the city of Jerusalem at the time? (12:22)
- * 12. How did God promise to respond to the false proverb that was common in Jerusalem? (12:22-25)
13. How did God tell Ezekiel to respond to the common wisdom that Ezekiel's prophecies were about a time in the distant future? (12:26-28)

Get It

14. Why do you think God wanted Ezekiel to "act out" his prophecies?
15. What was revealed about the Israelites in exile when they didn't understand Ezekiel's actions?
- * 16. Why does God bother to speak to human beings when He knows we are rebellious?
- * 17. Why is it dangerous to fail to take God's Word seriously, even when we don't see the immediate fulfillment or importance of it?
18. About which commands of God do you tend to think, "That doesn't mean me," or "That doesn't mean now"?
19. What is God's part in enabling us to know His will, and what does He leave up to us?

Apply It

- * 20. How can you be sure that you have "eyes to see" and "ears to hear" whenever you read or hear God's Word?
21. In what concrete way can you "act out" God's message through your relationships this week?