

Two Adulterous Sisters - Ezekiel 23:1-49

Topics: Adultery, Anger, Consequences, Hatred, Idolatry, Immorality, Lust, Preparation, Punishment, Remembering, Righteousness, Sacrifice, Shame, Sin, Sorrow

Open It

- * 1. In what ways are you and your siblings alike or different?
- 2. In your opinion how difficult is it to change patterns of behavior that are developed during your youth?

Explore It

- * 3. Who was represented by the two sisters in Ezekiel's parable? (23:1-4)
- 4. Where were the two sisters first guilty of unfaithfulness and prostitution? (23:3)
- 5. After what nation's warriors did the first sister, representing Samaria, lust? (23:5-8)
- 6. What other sin followed along with "prostitution"? (23:7)
- 7. To what judgment did God hand over Oholah, the first sister? (23:9-10)
- 8. How did the one woman behave when she saw what happened to her sister? (23:11-13)
- * 9. In what way did Oholibah (Judah) go farther than Oholah in her sin? (23:14-21)
- 10. What did God promise would happen to Oholibah? (23:22-24)
- 11. Whose standards of punishment would be applied against Judah? (23:24-26)
- 12. What words are used to describe what would be Judah's condition after she was judged? (23:28-34)
- 13. What attitude toward God compelled Him to allow Judah's suffering? (23:35)
- 14. What sins did the Lord list that He held against Israel and Judah? (23:36-41)
- 15. To whom did even the children of prostitutes belong? (23:37)
- * 16. How would the two sisters be treated by evil men and righteous men, respectively? (23:42-45)
- 17. How did God intend to put an end to the prostitution of His people? (23:46-48)

Get It

- * 18. How might the people of Judah have felt about being told they were worse than Israel, which had already suffered God's judgment?
- 19. When have you wanted something that, once attained, ultimately disappointed you?
- 20. How can we expect to be treated by others if we treat ourselves with contempt?
- * 21. Why, once we have given into one sin, does it become easier to go on to something worse?
- 22. How does God feel about little ones, regardless of the circumstances of their conception or birth?
- 23. In what sense was the Babylonian invasion and exile an instance of God's people bearing the consequences of their own actions?

Apply It

- 24. What negative pattern from your childhood or youth do you need to "unlearn" with God's help?
- * 25. When you feel the lure of power, wealth, or inordinate pleasure, how can you counteract it and remain faithful to God?