



STUDY NOTES – February 24, 2019

Sermon Series: “Ezekiel: Time To Grow Up”

Pastor Kris preaches from the *English Standard Version (ESV)*.

Sermons on line at camanochapel.org. (Click the Media tab.)

Ezekiel 8

How to know if you’ve lost our way:

1. Contamination of our inner life (Vs. 4-10)

Ezekiel 8:4–10 (ESV) — 4 And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, like the vision that I saw in the valley. 5 Then he said to me, “Son of man, lift up your eyes now toward the north.” So I lifted up my eyes toward the north, and behold, north of the altar gate, in the entrance, was this image of jealousy. 6 And he said to me, “Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations that the house of Israel are committing here, to drive me far from my sanctuary? But you will see still greater abominations.” 7 And he brought me to the entrance of the court, and when I looked, behold, there was a hole in the wall. 8 Then he said to me, “Son of man, dig in the wall.” So I dug in the wall, and behold, there was an entrance. 9 And he said to me, “Go in, and see the vile abominations that they are committing here.” 10 So I went in and saw. And there, engraved on the wall all around, was every form of creeping things and loathsome beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel.

- Life lesson: Ruthlessly evaluate *your thought life*.

2. Duplicity in our behavior (V. 11-12)

Ezekiel 8:11–12 (ESV) — 11 And before them stood seventy men of the elders of the house of Israel, with Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan standing among them. Each had his censer in his hand, and the smoke of the cloud of incense went up. 12 Then he said to me, “Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel are doing in the dark, each in his room of pictures? For they say, ‘The LORD does not see us, the LORD has forsaken the land.’ ”

- Life lesson: Ask yourself, “*Am I the same person during the week as I am at church?*”

3. Attention turned away from God (V. 16)

Ezekiel 8:16 (ESV) — 16 And he brought me into the inner court of the house of the LORD. And behold, at the entrance of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men, with their backs to the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east, worshiping the sun toward the east.

How to stay focused on God:

1. COMMIT – “Am I committed to focusing on God above all else?”
2. IDENTIFY- “What distractions are keeping me from focusing on God first?”
 - Even good things can distract us.
3. PRACTICE – “Am I setting goals to focus on God first?”
4. TEST – “Am I growing in my love for and obedience to God’s Word?”

S.A.L.T. Group questions

- Have someone read Sunday’s passage: Ezekiel 8:4-16
 - What truths stand out to you?
- 1. What are some thoughts that can contaminate our inner life?
 - What are the long-term results of contamination of our inner lives?
 - How can we rid ourselves of these contaminating thoughts?
- 2. What pressures are there to compromise in the workplace?
 - Besides duplicity, what other results are there in having two lives (Monday through Friday versus Sunday at church)?
 - How can we overcome duplicity in our behavior?
- 3. What are some ways we become distracted in our attention on God?
 - What is one of your biggest distractions?
 - How can we minimize these distractions?

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