

# Bible Studies

## Ezekiel 33.



### Read Ezekiel 33:1-6

This passage starts with a parable. The watchman of the city had a very responsible job. They had to guard the City while everyone else slept. They watched against an enemy who may attack silently from the darkness. If they slept on the job they put not only themselves in danger but the whole city.

**What was the watchman watching for?**

**What two conditions does Ezekiel described?**

**If he sees the danger, sounds the trumpet and no one listens - who is responsible for the lives of those who die?**

**If he sees the danger, but does not sounds the trumpet - who then is responsible for the lives of those who die?**

### Read Ezekiel 33:7-9.

The Lord now applies the parable. The application expands the parable slightly.

**Who is the Watchmen?**

**What is the sword coming against the land ?**

**What are the two possible actions described?**

**In both cases what is the reason they died?**

**In which case was the watchmen held accountable?**

**Why did the watchmen keep silent?**

Historically, Ezekiel was writing at the time of the exile, to the generation born during the exile, both in Babylon and in Israel. They blamed all that had befallen them on their parents and their sin. Ezekiel is trying to make them see the consequences of their own sin.



### How does this apply to us?

**What is our role as watchmen?**

**Can you think of any examples?**

**How should we sound the trumpet?**

We know God's ways, even if we don't always keep them ourselves. Does this passage give us a mandate to inform our friends and colleges of everything they do wrong? If we then fail what are the consequences for us?

**In the original context is Ezekiel talking to the heathen nations or to God's people?**

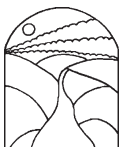
He is speaking to God's people, but not exclusively to God's people, it is also speaking to the unsaved.

*Say to them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?'* Ezekiel 33:11

What was the result that God had in mind for those warned by the Watchman?

*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9*

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## In the Church

**Is there a difference between showing someone their error and bringing them into condemnation?**



### Read Galatians 6v1

**What is the Goal?**

**How does the goal dictate the means?**

**What does it mean that we 'Watch ourselves'?**

Obviously we should watch ourselves in case we fall for the same sin, but maybe we should watch ourselves in case we get into pride or start to judge others or act from wrong motives.

*"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Luke 6:37*



### Read Jude 1v22-23

**What is the Goal?**

**Does this verse prescribe one response or several?**

**Why?**

Different people need to be warned in different ways, some people will respond to encouragement better than correction.

**Can you think of an example?**

**In what circumstances would you act and in which would you refrain from acting?**

We must watch that we do not become busy bodies.

**What did Paul think about busybodies?** 1 Timothy 5v13-15

**Is there another way to deal with it?** 1 John 5v16a (and only 16a)



## In the World

We are called to be light and salt

*"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds Matthew 5:13-17*

We are called to stand for Godliness.

As Christians we have values on things like Abortion, Homosexuality etc. Which are not shared by the world.

**Do we have the right to impose these standards?**

*What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? 1 Cor 5:12*

**Do we have the right to advocate for them?**

An excellent example of this was the abolition of slavery, those who campaigned against slavery in Britain were to a man believers.

**What things might we take a stand on?**

**What things should we not take a stand on?**

*Did you notice that Matthew 5v17 called us to shine our lights by our actions.*

**What do you think Jesus means by this?**