

PREACHING REGARDLESS

EZEKIEL 2



OUTLINE

- ❖ Ezekiel 2
- ❖ Current Similar Service Challenge
- ❖ Types of Service Challenges
- ❖ Timeout!
 - ❖ Preaching
 - ❖ What Are We Preaching?
 - ❖ Why Preaching is Worth Fighting for?
- ❖ How Can I Keep Going Regardless?
- ❖ Summary

EZEKIEL 2

And He said to me, "Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak to you." ² Then the Spirit entered me when He spoke to me, and set me on my feet; and I heard Him who spoke to me. ³ And He said to me: "Son of man, I am sending you to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against Me; they and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day. ⁴ For they are impudent and stubborn children. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God.'

EZEKIEL 2

⁵ As for them, whether they hear or whether they refuse—for they are a rebellious house—yet they will know that a prophet has been among them. ⁶ “And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them nor be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns are with you and you dwell among scorpions; do not be afraid of their words or dismayed by their looks, though they are a rebellious house. ⁷ You shall speak My words to them, whether they hear or whether they refuse, for they are rebellious....

CURRENT SIMILAR SERVICE CHALLENGE

Just wanted to check in and see how not answering my calls is going.



Call

My voicemail message should say: You know good and well I'm not going to answer so please hang up and text me. I don't do phone calls.



Response 1

I'm only saving your number so I know not to answer when you call.



Response 2

When I call someone and they don't answer, it's not because they don't want to talk to me. They obviously got so excited I called and passed out.



How I convenience others in the class to keep calling?

TYPES OF SERVICE CHALLENGES

❖ Servant-related

- ❖ Personality
- ❖ Service (preaching and communication style)
- ❖ Hypocrisy / Selfishness
- ❖ Lack of understanding / knowledge
- ❖ Not the right person in the right place

❖ Service-related

- ❖ Lack of spiritual guidance and stewardship

❖ Kids- / Youth-Related

“Discussion will be limited to a good servant trying his/her best to serve his/her SS children but things doesn’t seem to be working out”

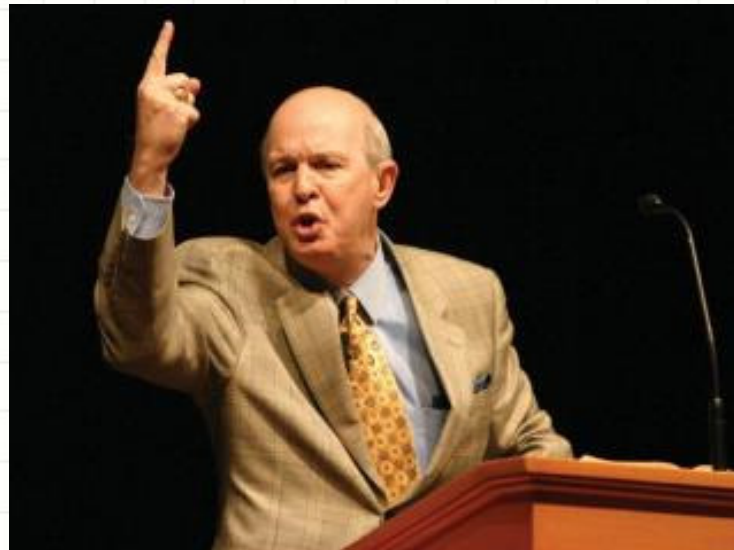
What can he / she do?

TIMEOUT!



PREACHING (MERRIAM WEBSTER)

- ❖ To make a speech about religion in a church or other public place : to deliver a sermon
- ❖ To write/speak about something in an approving way
- ❖ To say that something is good or necessary
- ❖ To write or speak in an **annoying** way about the right way to behave
- ❖ To urge acceptance or abandonment of an idea or course of action



PREACHING (BIBLE)

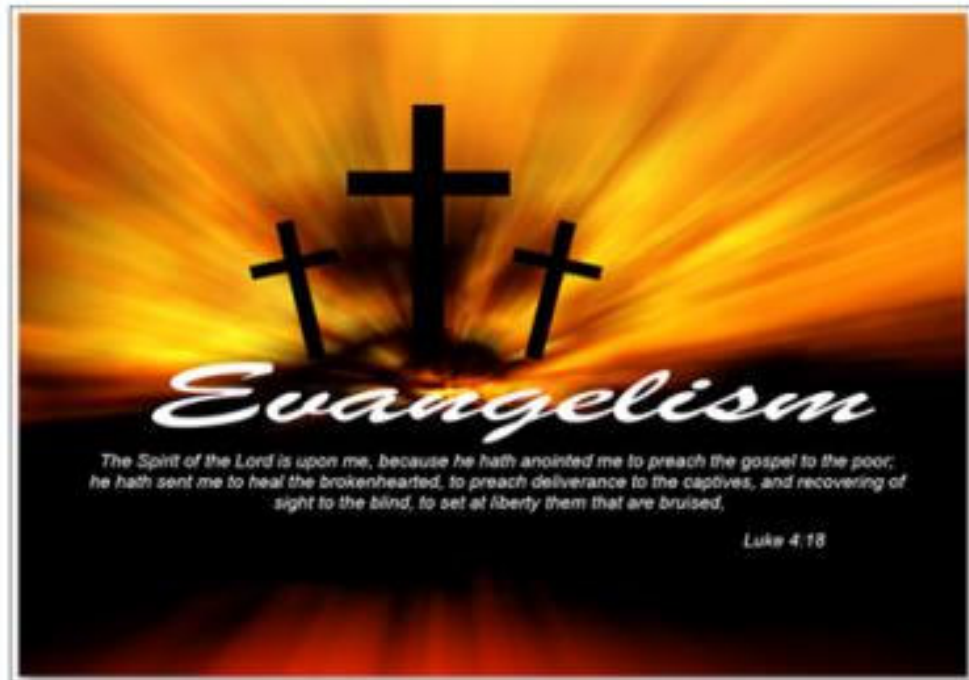
❖ Acts 1:1 *“The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began **both to do and teach**”* . So what does He do?



❖ 1 Cor 1: 17 *“For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.”* ...it is a matter of being clear

WHAT ARE WE PREACHING?

- ❖ Includes warning people about sin and the consequences of sin (John 16:8, Acts 24:25, Revelation 20:11-15)
- ❖ Includes an explanation of God's remedy for sin—the gospel (Acts 8:29-35, Romans 3:21-26, 2 Corinthians 5:21)
- ❖ Includes the clear call to repent and believe the gospel by faith (Mark 1:15, Luke 13:1-5, Acts 17:29-31, Romans 1:17, Romans 10:9-13)



WHY PREACHING IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR?

- ❖ **Romans 10: 14-15** *“¹⁴ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent?”*
- ❖ **1 COR 11: 16-17** *“¹⁶ For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷ For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship.”*
- ❖ **2 COR 12: 15-16** *“¹⁵ And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved. ¹⁶ But be that as it may...”*

HOW CAN I KEEP GOING REGARDLESS?

❖ Don't arrive unless you plan to stay:

- ❖ A call to service is similar to a marriage. You are betrothed to your kids even through hard times
- ❖ God has called you to that flock. Even the greatest trouble and disappointment is God's means of humbling you and breaking your self-confidence
- ❖ We are all truly powerful and useful when we are weak



HOW CAN I KEEP GOING REGARDLESS?

- ❖ **Learn to be patient:** Your goal should be to bring the convictions of your kids into line with the full message of God's Word, and their lives to spiritual maturity. A process that takes decades
- ❖ **Don't be afraid to learn and change (Adapt):...[Nativity]**
 - ❖ Not only will your kids change as you instruct them spiritually, but you will also be changed
 - ❖ You may think you have everything wired, but inevitably you will come to passages that change the way you think...



HOW CAN I KEEP GOING REGARDLESS?

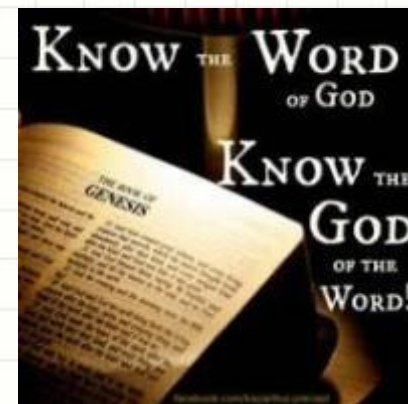
❖ Study to know God, not to give sermons:

❖ The key to avoiding debilitating weariness in ministry is personal spiritual renewal (are you getting anything along the way?)...**Example: priorities**

❖ Sermons should never be the primary goal of your Bible study; they should only be the overflow of it (St. Paul)

❖ Peace at any Price:

❖ **H.E. Metropolitan Bakhomious:** *“two things you buy at any price, the peace of the church and land beside the church”*



HOW CAN I KEEP GOING REGARDLESS?

❖ Be thankful and be humble:

- ❖ You need to be grateful for the flock that Christ has entrusted to you
- ❖ Contentment begins with confidence in God's providence. No matter your circumstances, you are unworthy of what you've been given (**Whoever called you is just too nice!**)
- ❖ Don't think you deserve a bigger ministry than you have
- ❖ Learn to define success in terms of faithfulness, and not in terms of popularity



HOW CAN I KEEP GOING REGARDLESS?

❖ Don't lose sight of the priority:

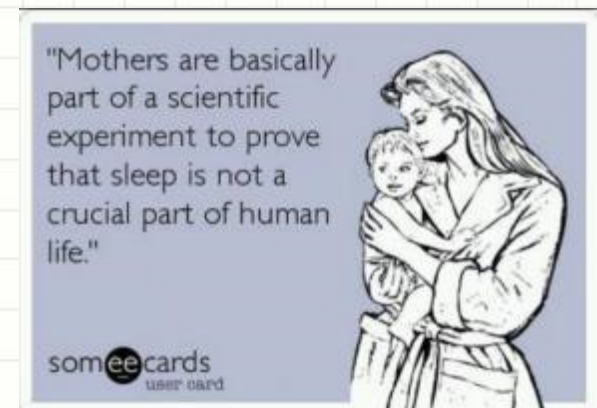
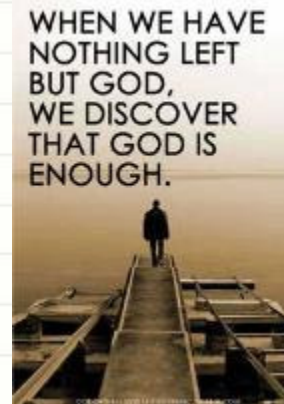
- ❖ You are not running the show; it is not about you and them
- ❖ Your duty is to shepherd His flock, nourishing them on the Word of God, leading them toward Christ-likeness while protecting them from error
- ❖ You are to disseminate the divine truth

❖ Trust the Word to do its work:

- ❖ People in churches today are starving for theological, expository preaching, but don't even know it
- ❖ Long-term exposition will satisfy their hearts and, at the same time, increase their appetite for more

HOW CAN I KEEP GOING REGARDLESS?

- ❖ **Expect to work hard:** If you're faithful, you will find it to be a difficult and relentless task. Serving is a blessed bondage that requires discipline and sacrifice. Still it brings the purest joys and most lasting, even eternal satisfaction
- ❖ **Always depend on the Lord:**
 - ❖ Lasting spiritually-transforming ministry is built by God's power released through His truth
 - ❖ When you realize that you can't resolve all problems, you will fully rest on God who can, accepting your weakness and inadequacy....



HOW CAN I KEEP GOING REGARDLESS?

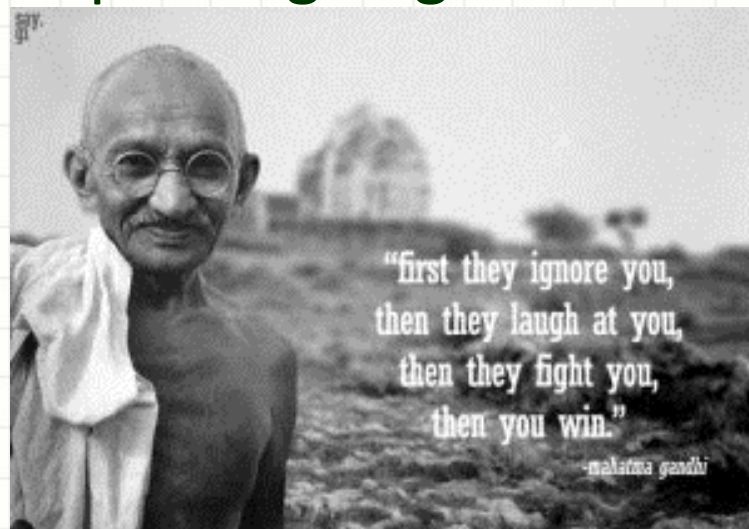
❖ Leaving comes at a price:

- ❖ While some may be lost spiritually due to service, a spiritual person needs to fix not quit
- ❖ It may be you cross and means of salvation; it may be the last link
- ❖ The faithful finds it hard to leave, may be even impossible



SUMMARY

- ❖ Ezekiel 2
- ❖ Current Similar Service Challenge
- ❖ Types of Service Challenges
- ❖ Timeout!
 - ❖ Preaching
 - ❖ What Are We Preaching?
 - ❖ Why Preaching is Worth Fighting for?
- ❖ How Can I Keep Going Regardless?



THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL

- ❖ The prophet Ezekiel wrote it approximately 571 B.C.
- ❖ It was written to announce judgment upon Judah, to allow them one last chance to repent. It also foretells deliverance from captivity in Babylon.
- ❖ Chapters 1-3: God commissions his servant Ezekiel to confront God's sinful nation.
- ❖ Chapters 4-24: Ezekiel delivered the message of doom to the captives.
- ❖ Chapters 25-32: Ezekiel condemns 7 seven nations who mocked God.
- ❖ In chapters 33-48: a message of deliverance and restoration is written.