**I Am Sending You**

**The Word**

Read together Ezekiel 2:1-3:15

**The Big Picture**

God calls Ezekiel to an incredibly challenging vocation and equips him for that vocation. God often asks difficult things of his people, and he calls us to faithfulness in whatever situation he places us.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. What about Ezekiel’s vocation and situation most stands out to you?

2. After three weeks in the book of Ezekiel, how are you feeling about the wild God who is presented there? How is the book deepening your appreciation for him or challenging your view of him or raising concerns about him?

3. Consider the difference between trying to fit God into your own plans for a comfortable and “successful” life vs. starting with God’s story and plans and fitting your life into that. As you think about how you’re currently living your own life, what specific issues does this raise for you?

4. Is there anything that’s been stirring in your heart and mind lately that you brought before God in prayer during Sunday’s service? That is, is there any new ministry, opportunity, or responsibility you sense him calling you towards at this time, and if so, how can the group be praying for you in that?

**Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline**

I. Introduction

 A. Vocation comes from the Latin, “vocare,” meaning “to call”

B. Our vocation is our sense of God’s calling on our lives; our own unique way of being in the world according to how God has gifted us and the situations he has placed us in

C. Ephesians 2:10: We are God’s “workmanship” created for good works which God has prepared in advance for us.

II. Consider to whom Ezekiel is sent (= the Israelites in exile)

 A. A broken people

 1. Taken from their homes in Israel to work as slaves in a foreign land

 2. Traumatized emotionally and physically

 B. A rebellious people

 1. “Rebellious” is mentioned over 7 times in this passage

 2. “Hardened and obstinate” (3:7) = “strong of forehead and hard of heart”

 3. Their suffering has not made them softer but has rather hardened them

III. Consider what God asks Ezekiel to do

A. Speak God’s words to the people; say “Thus says the LORD” (2:4 and 2:7)

 1. This is the basic role of a prophet

2. Ezekiel is not given much hope of a positive response (2:5)

B. Do not be afraid (v. 6)

1. His task will make him incredibly unpopular with his own people. He will live a very isolated and lonely life.

2. His task will most likely put him in physical danger from the people

IV. Consider how God equips Ezekiel for his vocation

A. He gives Ezekiel the scroll to eat (2:8-3:3)

= Ezekiel completely internalizes the message he will be delivering so that it becomes a part of himself

B. He gives Ezekiel a new disposition (3:7-8)

= God is going to toughen Ezekiel up and give him a head as hard as the Israelites so that he will be ready for his task

C. He gives Ezekiel his Holy Spirit (2:1-2 and 3:14)

= The Spirit will empower Ezekiel for his vocation

V. Even though he is equipped, the reality remains this is a very challenging vocation

A. Ezekiel is left angry and bitter and overwhelmed from this encounter (3:14-15)

B. He had always wanted to be a priest, and now he’s being asked to be a prophet

VI. Conclusion

 A. God is a wild God who sometimes calls people to wild and difficult tasks

 B. We should consider how we might need to redefine what a successful life is

 = is it popularity, wealth, comfort, or is it faithfulness to what God calls us to do?

C. We should consider what’s driving our lives. Are we living for comforts and a certain standard of living and trying to fit God into that life, or are we starting with God’s priorities and asking how we can fit our lives into his story?

D. Where do you sense God calling you to a new task or responsibility that might be challenging?

E. Where is life currently challenging, and what is God asking of you in that, and what do you need from him?