

The Divine Tapestry

PART 86

Ezekiel 1-3

“FIVE CRITICAL COMPONENTS TO A CALL”

Presented by
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Charles Swindoll writes, “Isaiah warned. Jeremiah wept. Ezekiel went.

A prophet in exile. Seems strange, doesn't it? Why keep trying, Lord? Why raise up another spokesman? The people didn't listen to the prophets while in Jerusalem, so why send one to Babylon? Why not let the exiles lie in the bed they had made for themselves?

Because, as the psalmist explained, ‘The Lord is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting, And His faithfulness to all generations’ (Ps. 100:5). That means God doesn't abandon His people. Even in exile, He spoke to them, confronting them with their sins and giving them hope of a restored relationship with Himself.

That's where Ezekiel comes in. As a prophet who ministered among the exiles in Babylon, he represented the voice and presence of God among a people with no temple, no holy city, no national identity. God's loving pursuit of His people knows no boundaries – geographical, cultural, or otherwise. That was true in Ezekiel's day. And it's true today."¹

WHO, WHEN, WHERE?

- Ezekiel means, "**Strengthened** by God."
- Note the **age** in which he was called – **30 years old**.
- Note the year in which he was called – **597 B.C.**
- Note the month in which he was called – **4th month, "Tammuz."**

FIVE CRITICAL COMPONENTS TO A CALL

- We are prepared for ministry when we:
 1. Have been deeply **impacted** by the **glory** of **God**.
 2. Have a sense of **devastation** over the **plight** of others.
 3. Have **consumed** the **Word** of God (and it was **sweet**).

4. Feel an urgent need to **warn** the **wicked**.

5. Feel an urgent need to **restore** the **righteous**.

WRAP

- A call to lead is unique, but every believer is called to **agree** with God's **opinion**.
- If you were to evaluate your spiritual walk based on these criteria ... where are you **weak**?

¹*God's Masterwork, Vol. 2, Ezra through Daniel*, Charles R. Swindoll, p. 117