

## The Four Calls

"The Spirit came in CHILDHOOD, and pleaded, 'Let Me in!'  
But Oh! The door was bolted, by thoughtlessness and sin.  
'I am too young,' the child replied, 'I will not yield today,  
There's time enough tomorrow.' The Spirit went away.

.....

Again He came and pleaded, in YOUTH'S bright happy hour.  
He came, but heard no answer, for lured by Satan's power,  
The boy lay idly dreaming, and saying, 'Not today;  
Not till I've tried earth's pleasures.' The Spirit went away.

.....

Again He called in mercy. In MANHOOD'S vigorous prime,  
But still he found no welcome, the merchant had no time.  
No time for true repentance, no time to think or pray.  
And so, repulsed and saddened, the Spirit went away.

.....

Once more He called and waited, the man was OLD and ill.  
He scarcely heard the whisper, his heart was cold and still.  
'Go leave me -- when I need thee, I'll call for thee,' he cried,  
Then sinking on his pillow, without a hope, he died!"

.....

One of the Devil's most successful wiles is

"Wait a while."

# DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

February 27 - March 5, 2011

## "THE TRAGEDY OF HEARING ONLY"



Ezekiel 33:30-33

## THE LORD'S DAY

Read: This week we take a break from our study of Mark to do some self-evaluation. We are going back to the Old Testament to learn about a prophet named Ezekiel. Read **Ezekiel 33:30-33** and ask God to help you understand His Word this week.

Prayer Starter: Dear God, help me to learn from Your Word.

## MONDAY

Read: The prophet Ezekiel was chosen by God to deliver a message to the Israelites who had been exiled. There were many "false prophets" there who were telling the people they would soon be free. Ezekiel's message was not as encouraging, but it was the truth. Read **Ezekiel 1:28-2:9** to find out what God instructed him to.

Prayer Starter: Dear God, Help me to obey You.

## TUESDAY

Read: God prepares Ezekiel to deliver the message by asking him to do something unusual. Read **Ezekiel 3:1-15** to find out what it was. God wanted him to do this so that he would understand the importance of delivering God's message even if it would not be accepted by the people. The message was "sweet" because it contained God's Word, but it was also "bitter" because it contained judgment. Read **Jeremiah 15:16** and **Revelation 10:9-10** to find out about two other men who had to do the same thing.

Prayer Starter: Dear God, Thank You for Your Word.

## WEDNESDAY

Read: Ezekiel delivered God's message as God instructed even though he knew the people wouldn't like it. The Elders of our church are very similar to Ezekiel in that they must deliver God's message to us every week. Sometimes it is "sweet" (pleasant) and sometimes it is "bitter" (harsh), but whatever God's message is, we must listen to it and obey. We need to take the Bible seriously and realize that everything we learn from it is for our own good even if it seems harsh.

Prayer Starter: Dear God, Help me to listen to those who teach me Your Word and help me to obey.

## THURSDAY

Read: In **Ezekiel 33:30-33** we find out that the people were hearing God's message but had no intentions of obeying it. They were all talking about Ezekiel. They heard and were intrigued by what he had to say because they knew it was from God, but that was it. They never obeyed. Read **Luke 23:8**, **Acts 24:22-27**, & **Acts 26:24-29** to find out about some others who were intrigued by God's message but never obeyed it.

Prayer Starter: Dear God, Help me to hear Your Word and obey it.

## FRIDAY

Read: In **verse 31** God says the people who listened only pursued their "own gain". In **verse 32** God says they "enjoy" listening to the prophet but they only hear and do not act. In **verse 33** God says there will come a day when they will realize that the message was true but it will be too late. Read **James 1:22-25**. See what else God says about hearing only.

Prayer Starter: Dear God, Help me to be a "doer" of the Word.

## SATURDAY

Read: Think about what we learned this week about "hearers only". This world we live in tells us our life should be all about "Our Brains, Our Bodies, and Our Bank Accounts". Read **Jeremiah 9:23-24** to find out what God says life is all about. Pursue God above everything else, know Him more than anyone else, and obey Him at every opportunity.

Prayer Starter: Dear God, Help me to obey You and Your Word.

## memory verse

*"Anyone who listens to the Word is like a man who looks at himself in a mirror, and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like".*

**James 1:23-24**