

“Take Heed How You Hear”
Ezekiel 33:21-33

“As for you, son of man, surely on the day when I take from them their stronghold, their joy and glory, the delight of their eyes and their soul’s desire, and also their sons and daughters, on that day a fugitive will come to you to report to you the news. On that day your mouth will be opened to the fugitive and you shall speak and be no longer mute.” (Ezekiel 24:25-27; cf. Ezekiel 3:26-27)

“I know you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill Me because My word finds no place in you.... They answered Him, ‘Abraham is our father.’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works Abraham did.’” (John 8:37,39)

- The Destruction of Jerusalem: (Ezekiel 33:21-22)
 - On August 14th 586 BC Jerusalem was set on fire and on January 8th 585 BC a fugitive arrived in Babylon to validate Ezekiel’s prophecies (2 Kings 25:1-12).
 - For seven years Ezekiel had been unable to speak other than when he was sharing the Word of God.
- The Unrepentant Survivors: (Ezekiel 33:23-29)
 - We want blessings to be handed down to us based on the righteousness of someone else and at the same time have no consequences for our sins (Ezekiel 18:20).
 - God had made a conditional covenant with His people that if they obeyed Him they would flourish in the promised land, and if they forsook Him they would experience discipline and judgment and be removed from the promised land (Deuteronomy 30:11-20; Ezekiel 16:59-60).
 - They dishonored the worship of God by not treating blood as holy, (Leviticus 3:16-17; 7:26-27) they offered their children to pagan gods (Ezekiel 16:36; Ezekiel 22:4), they trusted in military might (Ezekiel 29:6-7), and they had practiced sexual immorality (Ezekiel 18:10-13).
 - Despite them seeing God’s judgment they did not repent of their sins and turn to God, they continued on in their rebellion. So the judgment of God was going to come on the survivors as well (Jeremiah 44:1-30; cf. Jeremiah 42:10-12).
- The Deaf Congregation: (Ezekiel 33:30-33)
 - After the exiles had seen Ezekiel’s words come to pass they were interested in **hearing his words**, but still not interested in **obeying his words**.
 - *“They were drawn to the beautiful music, but not the lyrics. They were drawn to the emotion of his message but not the truth of his message. They wanted the experience but not obedience. They were drawn to the message of blessing and reconciliation not the message of warning, judgment, and repentance.”*
 - Luke 8:16-18:
 - Producing fruit shows the power of the Word of God and is used to draw others toward the truth.
 - The reality of every heart will eventually be seen.
 - We either listen to bear fruit or listen to have our hearts further hardened.

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** For our May and June donation collection, we are joining Heartbeats in this life-affirming mission! Your contribution, big or small, makes a profound impact! Together, let's empower women and families to choose life! Starting on Mother's Day — Sunday, May 11th through Father's Day — Sunday, June 15th, we are collecting monetary donations for Heartbeats and their "Reaching Her Campaign." You can put your monetary donations in the container on the back table. You can also give on Venmo, please make sure to note that it is for "Heartbeats." For more information about Heartbeats and what they do, please see the bulletin board at the back of the Sanctuary.

★**FELLOWSHIP LUNCH:** We are having a Fellowship Lunch THIS Sunday, May 18th, immediately following the worship service. There is a sign-up list on the table in the Entryway, please sign-up to bring something for the meal. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the food and the fellowship with us.

★**LADIES BRUNCH:** Ladies, don't forget that our First Annual Ladies of Legacy Brunch is THIS Saturday, May 17th, at 11am, here at the church. EVERY lady is invited to join us for this time of food, fun, and fellowship. There is a sign-up list on the wall in the Entryway, please sign-up if you plan on attending!

★**CHURCH GAME NIGHT:** Our monthly Church Game Night is on Sunday, May 25th, at Andy's house (1062 National Road SE; Hebron), starting at 5pm. Please bring your favorite board games and card games to play. We also ask that you bring a snack or finger food to share with everyone! We would love for everyone to join us for this time of fun and fellowship!

★**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** Men, the monthly Men's Breakfast is on Saturday, May 31st, at 7am, at the Big Apple Café — Log Pond Location. If you plan on attending, please RSVP to Pastor Zach (740)618-0739.

★**MEMBERS' MEETING:** We are having a Members' Meeting on Sunday, June 8th, immediately following the worship service. If you are currently a church member, please plan on staying for this meeting.

★**MEN OF LEGACY LUNCH:** Men, we are planning the First Annual Men of Legacy Lunch for Saturday, June 21st, at 11am. Mark your calendars and save the date!