

Small Group Discussion Questions

Blind Spots and Whitewashed Walls

Ezekiel 13:10-16

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¹⁰ " 'Because they lead my people astray, saying, "Peace," when there is no peace, and because, when a flimsy wall is built, they cover it with whitewash, ¹¹ therefore tell those who cover it with whitewash that it is going to fall. Rain will come in torrents, and I will send hailstones hurtling down, and violent winds will burst forth. ¹² When the wall collapses, will people not ask you, "Where is the whitewash you covered it with?"

¹³ " 'Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: In my wrath I will unleash a violent wind, and in my anger hailstones and torrents of rain will fall with destructive fury. ¹⁴ I will tear down the wall you have covered with whitewash and will level it to the ground so that its foundation will be laid bare. When it ^[b] falls, you will be destroyed in it; and you will know that I am the LORD. ¹⁵ So I will spend my wrath against the wall and against those who covered it with whitewash. I will say to you, "The wall is gone and so are those who whitewashed it, ¹⁶ those prophets of Israel who prophesied to Jerusalem and saw visions of peace for her when there was no peace, declares the Sovereign LORD." ' "

Sermon Outline:

- I. Destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC
 - a. Theme of the prophets – God is doing something in the midst of the worst of circumstances.
 - b. God has been humiliated in this context because everyone else sees the tragic circumstances of Judah.
- II. Prophets were leading people astray by not telling them the truth about their situation.
- III. Ezekiel is trying to help them see their blindspots
- IV. How do we live with the truth about ourselves?
 - a. Recognize: "I have blind spots and make mistakes."
 - b. I need to listen to other people
 - c. I need to build a hidden life with God.

Small Group Questions:

- 1) What thoughts, feelings, or questions do you have after reading the passage or listening to the sermon?

- 2) Why do you think it's easier to recognize the blind spots in others, and not pay attention to our own blindspots?

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- 3) In Ezekiel's day, their spirituality was like a "white-washed wall" but inside it was on the verge of collapse. When are the times in your life that you tend to project to be someone on the exterior, that is not consistent with your interior life?
- 4) To live with integrity, we were invited to admit "I have blind spots and make mistakes." How does admitting that statement make you feel?
- 5) Do you have a hard time admitting your blindspots? If yes, Why?
- 6) According to the sermon, we need to listen to others people to see our own blindspots. Is it hard for you to receive correction/critique from people? Why is that?
- 7) Who do you have a hard time receiving correction from? Why do you think that is?
- 8) What area (s) of your life are you resistant to receiving correction? What is God's invitation to you?
- 9) What are your fears about appearing flawed?
- 10) To live a life of integrity, we need to build a hidden life with God. This is done over time. What is one or two things that you can begin doing to cultivate your devotion to God?
- 11) Take time to pray for one another.