

# Sermon Notes – The Watchman (Veterans)

## Ezekiel 33:1-9

1 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 2 “Son of man, speak to the sons of your people and say to them, ‘If I bring a sword upon a land, and the people of the land take one man from among them and make him their watchman, 3 and he sees the sword coming upon the land and blows on the trumpet and warns the people, 4 then he who hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, and a sword comes and takes him away, his blood will be on his own head. 5 ‘He heard the sound of the trumpet but did not take warning; his blood will be on himself. But had he taken warning, he would have delivered his life. 6 ‘But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet and the people are not warned, and a sword comes and takes a person from them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require from the watchman’s hand.’ 7 “Now as for you, son of man, I have appointed you a watchman for the house of Israel; so you will hear a message from My mouth and give them warning from Me. 8 “When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require from your hand. 9 “But if you on your part warn a wicked man to turn from his way and he does not turn from his way, he will die in his iniquity, but you have delivered your life.

### Thoughts

1. God brings the sword – judgment, pruning, destruction
2. Watchman is chosen by the people
3. Dependent on the integrity of the watchman – tell the truth
4. People must listen to the watchman

### Veterans

Emerging understanding of moral injury

1. from combat
2. failed recovery system
3. MST – military sexual trauma
4. rejection upon returning
5. illegitimate mission – feelings of exploitation

Treating returning soldiers, sailors, airmen as mental illness or a crime

Moral Injury

PTSD

Comes from part of brain that sleeps

comes from limbic system à fear

A spiritual wound at the core of being necessarily fear

understood as behavioral/not

Personal violation of right and wrong cardiac event

during civil war – diagnosed as a

Is a sign of health – presence of conscience

called “soldier’s heart”

Today – diagnosed as a brain event

Connected to suffering – caused by war

Breaks your heart to kill à suicide, addiction

22 veteran suicides a day, drug and alcohol

All experience some form of moral injury

Cannot go to war and honor all of our values

Personality type that can survive war without impact – socio-path

What can the church do?

1. help to resurrect the soldier’s conscience
2. help to overcome loss – friends, comrades, mission, weapon
3. create rituals for reintegration