

Sounds Week 10: Cancel Culture

Discussion Guide

In this week's study, we encounter Ezekiel—called to speak truth to a people who no longer want to hear it. While Jeremiah mourned Jerusalem's fall, Ezekiel ministered among the exiles before it happened, revealing the spiritual rot behind the nation's collapse. Through breathtaking visions of God's glory, Ezekiel learned that God's presence is not confined to a temple or a culture's approval. He was commissioned as a watchman to warn a hardened people, acting out vivid prophecies that exposed sin and false peace. Yet amid rebellion, God promised an everlasting covenant—one not built on Israel's faithfulness, but His own. In a world where truth-tellers are "cancelled," Ezekiel reminds us that divine love cannot be. God calls His people to stand firm, speak truth in love, resist the seduction of cultural validation, and remember the mercy that rescued us when we were spiritually abandoned.

1. **Where was Ezekiel when he saw God's glory, and what does that teach us?**

- **Answer:** Ezekiel saw "visions of God" while exiled by the Kebar River in Babylon (Ezek. 1:1–3). The God who once filled the temple met him in a foreign land, proving His presence cannot be cancelled or confined. The rainbow around the throne (Ezek. 1:28) echoes His covenant mercy from Genesis 9:13–16.
- **Application:** When life feels like exile, when familiar structures crumble, how might God be inviting you to encounter His glory in new places?

2. **Why did God command Ezekiel to eat the scroll of lament and woe (Ezek. 3:1–3)?**

- **Answer:** The scroll represented God's Word—truths of both judgment and grace. Though the message was hard, it was sweet because it came from God. Psalm 119:103 echoes this: "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"
- **Application:** Have you ever resisted a hard truth from Scripture only to later see its sweetness? How can you cultivate a heart that delights in truth even when it convicts?

3. **What responsibility did God give Ezekiel in Ezekiel 3:18–19?**

- **Answer:** God made Ezekiel accountable to warn the wicked. If he stayed silent, their blood would be on his hands. If he spoke, he was innocent, even if they refused to listen. Our calling, like his, is to speak truth in love (Eph. 4:15) and let God handle results.
- **Application:** Where might you be tempted to stay silent for fear of rejection or being "cancelled"? How can you lovingly warn or guide others without compromising truth?

4. **What does the image of "whitewashed walls" in Ezekiel 13:10–12 represent?**

- **Answer:** False prophets promised peace without repentance, covering spiritual cracks with deception. God promised to expose their lies through coming storms. True peace requires truth, not denial (Jer. 6:14).
- What "whitewash" are you tempted to use—ways of keeping up appearances rather than dealing with spiritual reality? What relationships or habits might need honest repair instead of polite cover-up?

5. **What powerful truth emerges from Ezekiel 16:60 after Israel's betrayal?**

- **Answer:** God declares, "I will remember the covenant I made with you... and establish an everlasting covenant." Though Judah's sin deserved abandonment, God's faithful love pursued her. Romans 5:8 says, "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
- **Application:** In what ways have you experienced God's mercy after personal failure or cultural rejection? How can remembering His covenant love make you less dependent on human approval?

Prayer Prompts

- **For Courage:** "Lord, make us steadfast like Ezekiel, unafraid to stand firm in truth when culture turns against us."
- **For Purity and Integrity:** "Expose any false peace or whitewashed walls in our hearts. Teach us to value holiness over acceptance."
- **For Gratitude:** "Thank You, God, that when the world cancels us, Your covenant love never will. Help us live from that unshakeable grace."