

## Redeemer C.S.I Church Kansas Bible study

Ezekiel Chapter 17 on 06/27/2024 (7 P.m. to 8 P.m.)

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### Main points of Ezekiel chapter 17:

1. **The Parable of Two Eagles and a Vine**: - The chapter begins with a parable about two eagles and a vine (verses 1-10). - The first eagle is described as having great wings, long pinions, and full plumage, and it takes the top of a cedar tree, carries it to a city of merchants, and plants it. - This top of the cedar grows and becomes a low, spreading vine. - A second eagle with great wings and much plumage appears, and the vine turns its roots and branches toward this eagle.
2. **Interpretation of the Parable**: - God explains the parable through Ezekiel (verses 11-21). - The first eagle represents the king of Babylon (Nebuchadnezzar), who takes the king of Judah (Jehoiachin) and brings him to Babylon. - The low, spreading vine symbolizes the remaining people of Judah, particularly Zedekiah, whom Nebuchadnezzar sets up as a puppet king. - The second eagle represents Egypt, towards whom Zedekiah turns for help, violating his oath to Babylon.
3. **Consequences of Rebellion**: - God declares that Zedekiah's betrayal and reliance on Egypt will not succeed (verses 19-21). - Zedekiah will be caught and punished, and the remnant of Judah will be scattered.
4. **Promise of Restoration**: - God promises to take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and plant it on a high mountain in Israel (verses 22-24). - This new planting will grow into a majestic cedar, under which all kinds of birds will nest. - This symbolizes the future restoration of Israel under the Messiah, a kingdom that will flourish and be a blessing to many. These points illustrate themes of judgment, betrayal, and eventual restoration found throughout the book of Ezekiel.

### Practical application points from Ezekiel 17:

1. **Integrity and Faithfulness**: - Always keep your promises and honor your commitments, even when difficult. - **Example**: If you promise a friend to help them move on a weekend but

later receive an invitation to a fun event, honor your original commitment. Your friend relies on your help, and breaking your promise could damage your relationship.

2. **Consequences of Rebellion**: - Understand that defying rightful authority and making hasty decisions without considering long-term consequences can lead to problems. - **Example**: At work, if you disagree with a new policy, instead of secretly ignoring it or rallying others against it, discuss your concerns with your manager. Open communication may lead to a better understanding or even a change in the policy, avoiding potential conflicts and disciplinary actions.

3. **Dependence on God**: - Place your trust in God rather than solely relying on human solutions or alliances. - **Example**: Facing a financial crisis, instead of immediately turning to high-interest loans, take time to pray and seek God's guidance. You might find a solution through unexpected sources, such as a supportive community, a budgeting breakthrough, or a new job opportunity.

4. **Hope and Restoration**: - Belief in the possibility of renewal and restoration, even after failures or difficult times. - **Example**: After experiencing a personal failure, such as a business setback, instead of giving up, take time to reflect, learn from your mistakes, and seek God's direction for a fresh start. Many successful entrepreneurs have stories of initial failures that later led to greater achievements.

5. **God's Sovereignty**: - Trust that God controls the broader circumstances of life, even when things seem chaotic. - **Example**: During political instability or global crises, maintain faith that God is still sovereign. Instead of succumbing to anxiety, engage in prayer and community service, helping others find peace and support amidst uncertainty.

6. **Long-term Perspective**: - Have patience and trust in God's timing, understanding that fulfilling His promises may take time. - **Example**: If you're waiting for a significant life event, like marriage or career advancement, focus on personal growth and serving others. Trust that God's timing is perfect, and He is preparing you for the right moment. These examples illustrate how the lessons from Ezekiel 17 can be applied to everyday situations, encouraging integrity, trust in God, hope, patience, and reliance on divine guidance.