



“He said to me, “Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you.” As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. He said: “Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their fathers have been in revolt against me to this very day. The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says.’ And whether they listen or fail to listen—for they are a rebellious house—they will know that a prophet has been among them.” (Ezekiel 2:1-5 - NIV)

**Prayer:** God of all power and might, You are the Giver of all that is good. Help me to love You, with all my heart, strengthen me in the true faith, provide me with all I need, and keep me safe in Your care; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, me Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. AMEN



### **Order of Worship – The Common Service With L.S. – pg. 15**

Greeting by the Pastor

- Invocation (Liturgy pg. 15)

Opening Hymn **C.W. 566** sung by the Congregation

- Confession of Sins

- Absolution

- Prayer and Praise (pg. 16)

- Prayer of The Day (pg. 17)

**First Lesson** – Ezekiel 2:1-10 – Stubborn & Obstinate People?

**PSALM OF THE DAY** Psalm 143 (C.W. pg. 118 – Sung by Monica McInnis)

**Second Lesson** – II Corin. 12:7-10-In Weakness I am Strong

**Gospel Lesson** – Mark 6:1-6-A Prophet Without Honor.

**Nicene Creed** by the Congregation: (Liturgy pg. 18)

Sermon Hymn: **C.W. 544** sung by the Congregation

**Sermon Text:** Ezekiel 2:1-5

Sermon Theme: Ezekiel – Called By God.

"Create in Me" – (pg. 20)

Offering (The plates will not be passed but are at the entrance doors)

Offering Prayer

Prayer of The Church

Lord's Prayer

**Communion Liturgy** (Liturgy - pg. 21)

*Sanctus* (Holy, Holy, Holy – Liturgy pg. 22)

Words of Institution (Liturgy pg. 23)

**Agnus Dei** (O Christ Lamb of God – Lit. pg. 23)

RECEPTION of Christ's Body & Blood which are Really Present, In / With and Under the Bread and the Wine for the forgiveness of sins.

Communion Hymn **C.W. 564** sung by the Congregation after everyone has communed including the Pastor

*Nunc Dimittis* (Song of Simeon - Liturgy pg. 24)

Collect / Prayer (pg. 24)

Benediction

Closing Hymn **C.W. 542** sung by the Congregation.

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SERMON TEXT: Ezekiel 2:1-5

Vs. 1 - He said to me, “Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you.”

Vs. 2 - 2 As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me.

Vs. 3 - He said: “Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their fathers have been in revolt against me to this very day.

Vs. 4 - The people to whom I am sending you are **obstinate and stubborn**. Say to them, **‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says.’**

Vs. 5 - And whether they listen or fail to listen—for they are a rebellious house—they will know that a prophet has been among them.

GREETING: He (God) saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, Whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:5-7)

Do you know anyone who is obstinate and stubborn?

Has anyone ever told you, that you are obstinate and stubborn?

In this section of Scripture, we hear the Lord God as HE calls Ezekiel to go and preach the Word of the Lord to the people of Israel.

It is God Himself Who calls His own people – Obstinate and Stubborn.

- ים-נקשי-ף - וְחִזְקִי-לְבַ - Stiff Necked / Stiff Faced and Hard Heart.

These people of Israel are the same people to whom the Lord God sent Moses to lead them out of slavery in Egypt.

God performed those incredible 10 plagues against the Egyptians which resulted in the Egyptian Pharaoh driving the people of Israel out of Egypt. - Blood in the Nile – Frogs – Lice – Flies – On Cattle – Boils – Hail – Locust – Darkness – Death of 1<sup>st</sup> Born. (Exodus 8 – 12)

The people of Israel then were trapped at the Red Sea. The Egyptians army behind them (The Pharaoh changed his mind) and the Lord God parted the waters of the Red / Reed Sea and the people of Israel cross on dry ground, while the Egyptian Army was destroyed in the waters. (Exodus 14)

These are the same people of Israel who saw God's power, but then when they were camped at the base of Mount Sinai while Moses was on the mountain receiving the 10 commandments from the Lord, the people of Israel worshiped the Golden Calf. (Exodus 32:1-35)

These are the same people of Israel who did evil in the eyes of the Lord under the Judges (Judges 2:11; Judges 3:7 & 3:12; etc. Then Israel asked for a king to rule them, but then under the kings they continued to do evil in the eyes of the Lord. (I Kings 14:22, II Kings 8:18; 8:24; etc.)

After the divided Kingdom, the Lord God had the Northern tribes deported into slavery by the Assyrians in 722 B.C. (II Kings 17:24-40)

God then had the tribe of Judah deported into slavery by the Babylonians. (II Kings 24:10 – II Kings 25:26)

The first people of Judah were deported already in 605 B.C.  
Jerusalem fell in 586 B.C.

It is during the time of the Babylonian captivity that the Lord appears to Ezekiel at the Kebar River in the land of Babylon. (The Kebar is a canal of the Euphrates River)

God went directly to Ezekiel. This is referred to as an **Immediate** call. 593 B.C.

**Ezekiel 1:1** – “**In the 30<sup>th</sup> year, in the fourth month on the 5<sup>th</sup> day while I was among the exiles by the Kebar River, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of GOD.**” 593 B.C. = Call Day!

God told Ezekiel that he must preach the Word of the Lord:

**Vs. 4** - The people to whom I am sending you are **obstinate and stubborn**. Say to them, ‘**This is what the Sovereign LORD says.**’

**Vs. 5** - And whether they listen or fail to listen—for they are a rebellious house—they will know that a prophet has been among them.

Ezekiel did not have any choice on what to preach.

And it was God Who would give him the strength as we learn later in the book of Ezekiel:

**Ezekiel 3:7-10** – “**But the house of Israel is not willing to listen to you because they are not willing to listen to ME, for the whole house of Israel is hardened and obstinate. - But I will make you as unyielding and hardened as they are. – I will make your forehead like the hardest stone, harder than flint. Do not be afraid of them or terrified by them, though they are a rebellious house. - And HE said to me, Son of man, listen carefully and take to heart ALL the Words I speak to you. - Go now to your countrymen in exile and speak to them. Say to them, “This is what the Sovereign Lord says, whether they listen or fail to listen.”**

Even though the people of Israel / Judah had hardened their hearts and worship idols such as Baal, Molech and Ashtaroth, God preserved the tribe of Judah for a very special purpose.

That purpose that God spared the tribe of Judah was to send the Savior Jesus Christ, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of Jesse. (Rev. 5:5)

And then Jesus would be *stubborn and obstinate* in taking up the cross for our sin and the sin of all mankind. As it is recorded in the Gospel of Luke we learn of Jesus as He was resolute:

**Luke 9:51** – “**As the time approached for Him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set (Set His face firmly toward) out for Jerusalem.**” - και αυτος το προσωπον εστηρισεν του πορευεσθαι εις Ιερουσαλημ. -

And just as firmly and certainly as Jesus died, rose and ascended, He will come again with all His holy ones to take us and all believers to our heavenly home.

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve stubbornly rejected the Word of the Lord and fell into sin.

Despite our sinful stubbornness, the Lord God fulfilled His promise to send the Savior.

May the Lord God give you a stubborn, obstinate firmness to hold on to the truth of God's Word and resolutely proclaim the Saving Word of our Risen and Living Lord Jesus to others.  
AMEN

**THEME: Ezekiel – Called By God.**

God has also called you by the Gospel in Word and Sacrament and made you His Own through Faith in Christ Jesus our Lord.