

Watch Out

As for you, son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, give them a warning from me.

~ Ezekiel 33:7

Discover the Context

Ezekiel 33:1-20

? Ezekiel, as an Old Testament prophet, was called to be a watchman of Israel. How are we supposed to be like Ezekiel in watching out for our brothers and sisters in Christ? How are we different from Ezekiel?

👁️ When you see a fellow staff member walking in spiritual danger, don't gossip about it. If it isn't life threatening, first pray and then approach him or her and share your observations and concerns. Be sure that you are dealing with sin issues and not just personal preferences.

““Eternal life is received individually, but it is lived out in community. And the community battles sin in the body by confronting sinners and by requiring spiritual accountability.”

~ Ajith Fernando
(Youth for Christ, Sri Lanka)

Summer camp is full of dangers.

You know what I'm talking about—bad archery shots, flying dodge balls, campers trying to climb the rock wall without a harness, bears in the woods, flying food. You never know what you might face on any given day. As staff—the responsible ones—we have to constantly be on watch to make sure the campers and our other staff remain as safe as reasonably possible.

There is another area that is not as readily visible, but is equally dangerous for us as staff. Spiritual dangers like anger, malice, gossip, slandering the boss, our teammates, or even campers. These, my friends, are sins. Watch out!

We need to pay attention to ourselves and those around us, much like Ezekiel was called to literally watch out for Israel. We must be accountable to one another, watch out for these dangers for one another, protect each other, have each other's backs.

We should do this for each other, because Jesus supremely did this for us when he died on the cross for our sins. He took death for us. He jumped in front of us to keep us from facing spiritual ruin. And because we have been rescued, he calls us to do whatever we can to help our brothers and sisters, our campers, our leaders. We're not the savior, but we can be a watcher.

Today it isn't really in fashion to call someone out, but if we are to succeed as a unified team, a body of believers, we need each other to protect ourselves from what we may not see clearly. We are not to go on a scavenger hunt for sin in each other's lives. But if we see or hear something that is clearly hindering one of our team from being that Christ-like example, we need to lovingly say, “Watch out.”

More dangerous than an unattended campfire is unchecked sin in the camp. We can't let sin grow and fester, or the whole body will be affected. We must hold each other accountable to the calling to which we have been called so that we can all succeed. 