

Ezekiel 2: 1 – 3: 4

'Vocation and Sustenance'

Introduction ...

It wasn't much of a job offer to Ezekiel, was it?

I am sending you to a nation of rebels ...

briers and thorns surround you ...

you live among scorpions

you shall speak my words to them

whether they hear or refuse to hear

for they are a rebellious house.

Not much of a job offer ...

Vocation ...

In a commentary by Ernest Lucas, it's suggested that this passage can point us to considering two things: vocation and sustenance.

Vocation: linked as the word implies, to calling rather than career.

A career can be something we chose for ourselves.

A calling or vocation rests on the sense that God has chosen us for this task. It's not what the job is ... it's the motivation for doing it: one person may be a receptionist or a computer programmer because that's their choice of career with no reference to God, another person does it out of a sense that it is their God-given vocation.

This makes a massive difference. It alters the source of fulfilment and the measuring of achievement ... especially in difficult situations.

Think again of Ezekiel – right at the start, God 'warns' him that he may fail ... but that's not 'the point' ... for a person's vocation and how they carry it out – is judged by their faithfulness to God rather than any other criterion.

It's worth prayerfully considering – for each of us from time to time:

Do you know what your current vocation is?

If not – will you pray that God will reveal it?

If so – how faithfully are you living it out?

And what sustains you?

That last question links to the second theme of this Old Testament reading:

PTO

Sustenance ...

Ezekiel was told to 'eat the scroll' – the scroll containing the Words of the Lord. What food is to the body – the source of its strength to carry out its daily tasks – taking in God's words was to be for Ezekiel.

The strength, the sustenance, the fuel for his vocation ... the words of God.

For Ezekiel – the written words on the scroll.

For us:

The Scriptures and also the Eucharist – physically receiving, taking in – the bread and wine, to be fed spiritually with the very being of Jesus.

Vocation and sustenance ...

call of God and food of God ...

very closely linked for Ezekiel

and also for us.

Amen.