



Pre-Sermon Video Presentation with Bobby Seymour Blowing the Shofar

Getting the Nod

Where are the watchmen? Where are the trumpets? Where is the warning? The world needs watchmen!!

NKJV | Eze 33:1-9 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 2 “Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them: ‘When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their watchman, 3 when he sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet and warns the people, 4 then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head. 5 He heard the sound of the trumpet but did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But he who takes warning will save his life. 6 But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman’s hand.’ 7 “So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore, you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me. 8 When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you shall surely die!’ and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. 9 Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

Transition: Where are the watchman?

Connecting Us



The Night Watchman: A man got a job as a night watchman at a factory. There had been a lot of thefts by the workers on the night shift and so every morning when the night shift workers passed through his gate it was his job to check their bags and pockets to make sure that nothing was being stolen. Things were going along very well the first night on the job until a man pushing a wheelbarrow of newspapers came through his gate. Aha, he thought, that man thinks he can cover up what he is stealing with that newspaper. So, he removed the paper only to find nothing. Still he felt that the man was acting strangely, so he questioned him about the paper.

"I get a little extra money from newspapers I recycle, so I go into the lunchroom and pick up all the ones people have thrown away." The guard let him pass but decided to keep a close eye on him. The next night it was the same, and the night after that. Week after week it went on. The same guy would push the wheelbarrow of newspapers past the guard’s checkpoint. The guard would always check and find nothing.

Then one night, about a year later, the guard reported for work only to find a message had been left for him telling him to report to his supervisor. He said, "You’re fired" "Why? What did I do?" The boss said "It was your job to make sure that no one stole anything from this plant and you have failed. So, you’re fired." "Wait a minute, what do you mean failed. Nobody ever stole anything from this place while I was on guard." "Oh, really," the boss answered. "Then how do you account for the

fact that there are 365 missing wheelbarrows?" **He was looking at the wrong thing. Because he missed it, he failed at being a watchman.**

Background on the Passage:

- Ezekiel was a priest during the time the Jews were removed from their homeland because of their idolatry and rebellion against God. They were in captivity in Babylon.
- God is calling him to stand in the office of a prophet. He compared Ezekiel's ministry to that of a watchman.
- He would be given instruction and warning from God and was expected to pass it on to the people in order to avert tragedies.
- Ancient cities used walls to provide security. City walls were the shield against approaching enemies. If a city wall was vulnerable, so were those who lived there.
- You see, walled cities had two forms of protection... obviously the wall... and the watchmen who stood on the wall and kept watch over the surrounding areas.
- When invading enemies or other dangers came into his view, he sounded the trumpet for warning and those inside the wall to be prepared. **There job was simple... watch... and warn.**
- **We are watchmen!!** NLT | 1 Pe 2:5 **And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God.**

Transition: So, let's see what we are called to be. Here are the duties of a watchmen...

God's Word on the Watchmen

The Duties of a Watchman:

1. The key role of a watchman is to intercede.

- To intercede means to position oneself between two entities and to intervene on behalf of one. They would watch in the distance and observe what is happening and warn the city.
- **God's still desperately searching for intercessory watchmen.** NLT | Eze 22:30 **"I looked for someone who might rebuild the wall of righteousness that guards the land. I searched for someone to stand in the gap in the wall so I wouldn't have to destroy the land, but I found no one.**
- **Application:** If we are to truly help in the transformation of a wayward nation... we must PRAY, PRAY, PRAY! What is it going to take to get God's people to pray?

2. Watchmen are fearless and focused front-line soldiers.

- Watchmen were men who lived in the city and have been given the task of protecting and saving the people they love and live with!!!
- **It wasn't there job to:**
 - Judge the other watchmen.
 - Spend all their time watching the inside city more than that which is outside the wall.
 - Compare how well the other watchmen blow their trumpets.
 - Leave the trumpet blowing to the other watchmen... cause we might offend or scare someone on the streets.
 - **Application:** There was no room for them to be afraid or fearful... too much was at stake!!

- **Look at Joshua 1:9...** NLT | Jos 1:9 **This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.**

3. A watchman was someone who has been placed uniquely on the wall by the king.

- He was equipped to see what others do not see and he has a unique capacity to see when the enemy is coming.
- At times, the enemy comes disguised, but a watchman is very alert and blows the trumpet and gives a sound so that the people can be warned.
- **Just like the sons of Issachar...** NLT | 1 Ch 12:32 **From the tribe of Issachar, there were 200 leaders of the tribe with their relatives. All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take.**
- **Application:** What good is a preoccupied watchman? Pray for God to give us eyes to see.

4. A watchman warns with his trumpet.

- He doesn't just see, observe or hear. The watchman sounds the alarm when the enemy is approaching.
- He carried with him the safety of the entire city. The city could sleep soundly at night knowing the watchman was on the wall.
- **They are to watch with serious alertness...** NLT | 1 Th 5:5 **For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don't belong to darkness and night. 6 So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded.**
- **Application:** We all need to be on guard with our trumpets at our side... always willing to warn those we love... those we spend life with... those who are listening to us.

5. A watchman depends upon the Lord's vision.

- The waiting process was marked primarily by looking and listening to discern what God is trying to tell him.
- **Being a watchman was more than a job... it was a spiritual task as well.**
- A watchman wrestles with God daily for His purposes to be established in the lives of the people he watches over.
- **Application:** A modern example of a watchman was that He would wrestle against demonic powers hindering the blessing of protecting God's promises for His people.
- **The prophet Habakkuk, himself a watchman, described it this way:** NLT | Habakkuk 2:1 **I will climb up to my watchtower and stand at my guard post. There I will wait to see what the LORD says and how he will answer my complaint.**

Christians are Watchmen! They are responsible to issue a warning or sound the arrival of a king!!!

Transition: So, what was the trumpet supposed to accomplish in the city?

Drawing the Net:

What was the trumpet supposed to accomplish in the city?

1. **To wake them up. Make them aware.** To get their attention to what the enemy is currently doing or preparing to do. **(Lackland Air Force Base Morning Trumpet)**
 - **Application:** **It is time to wake up!!! The world needs us to wake up!!!**

2. **To start the people praying.** Calling on God to deliver them. In the threat of battle, the people would **FIRST** pray... and threat was made God's fight and their willingness to pray.
 - **Application:** A spiritual awakening is just around the corner... if we just pray!!
3. **To get prepared for that which was coming.** To get ready to fight and to defend their family and city.
 - **Application:** Make things right with God; Hebrews 11 says to build an ark to save our families; arm ourselves with the Word of God and with a hunger for righteousness and Christ's love.
4. **To unify the people for battle.** Remember Nehemiah's use of watchmen. God's people are a major force when we come together and fight for the Lord and His Church.
 - **Application:** Now more than ever God's people need to stand up against everything that a corrupt heart can come up with. The heart of man's problem is the problem of man's heart! We need to join together.
5. **To engage in the fight.** Inside each city had a number of men chosen for battle.
 - **Application:** The blast of the watchmen's trumpet would trigger an army for battle. And God's army is a victorious army!
 - NLT | 2 Ki 6:15-17 When the servant of the man of God got up early the next morning and went outside, there were troops, horses, and chariots everywhere. "Oh, sir, what will we do now?" the young man cried to Elisha. 16 "Don't be afraid!" Elisha told him. "For there are more on our side than on theirs!" 17 Then Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes and let him see!" The LORD opened the young man's eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire.

(Worship Team Enters) Christians, we are watchmen! We are strong and courageous; meant to intercede; chosen by God and focused on what's coming; willing to sound the alarm... because it's how God works in this world. **And just as we are called to boldly blow our trumpets... ALL WATCHMEN AWAIT THE LAST TRUMPET. WE ALL LIVE TO HEAR IT...** NLT | 1 Co 15:52 It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed.

Transition: Jesus is coming as sure you breath... and the times are showing the signs... ARE YOU READY? HAVE YOU PREPARED FOR THESE DAYS? Do you want to make sure?

Final Illustration: A pro-choice feminist and a pro-life conservative were debating the relative merits of the sanctity of life issue. Sensing victory in the debate, the feminist declared, "You don't understand, we've won in the White House, and we've won in the courthouse. Face it, it's over, the fat lady has already sung." The pro-lifer calmly replied, "**Wrong, it's not over until the trumpet sounds.**"

PRAYER POINTS

1. Dear Father, forgive me for sleeping when I should be keeping watch, in Jesus name.
2. O God my Father, revive my spiritual life by Your fire, in Jesus name.

3. Every dry bone situation in my spiritual life, receive life, in Jesus name.
4. Holy Spirit, open my eyes to see what You want me to see, in Jesus name.
5. Thank God for answering your prayers.

Heads bowed... do you want to pray? Are to ready for what's coming? We invite you to come and pray.