

The Book of Ezekiel

Heart sickness

- ▶ God makes a diagnosis, saying that this is a sickness of the heart, because they are not even betraying the Lord for money or benefits
- ▶ They are doing it because they cannot help themselves, even stooping to the level of seeking out others and paying them, instead of being paid themselves
- ▶ What other specific kinds of things can people get wrapped up in that causes their heart to be sick? Why is it so hard to get out of these situations? What does God do to help?



Turned against me

- ▶ However, God shows Israel that this will all eventually come crashing down, because her supposed allies and everybody else she leaned on does not love her like God does
- ▶ God will show her what He has known all along: that they want nothing but destruction for her. They will attack her the first chance they get.
- ▶ Why do you think betrayal stings so much? How does God exemplify the opposite of a traitor?



Back to square one

- ▶ Her punishment will fit her deeds, as she is prepared for an adulteress' fate of being stoned by having all of her vanity and riches dismantled before her eyes
- ▶ Even though she had been highly regarded among the nations, her status will be reversed and she will be back wallowing in blood, just like the beginning, but now for a different reason
- ▶ How might a person end up at a “reset point” in their life? Why are reset points rare? How can God work through these moments?



Equilibrium

- ▶ After all of these punishments are over, God relents and goes back to a state of calmness, because God does not revel in punishing His creatures and His disposition is peaceful, not angry or resentful
- ▶ The punishments released upon her are almost beyond words, but every single one was earned by previous actions that are now returned upon her head
- ▶ What common misconceptions are there about God's disposition or character? How does He actually reveal Himself to be?

