

Ezekiel 24:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So I spake unto the people in the morning: and at even my wife died; and I did in the morning as I was commanded.

Analysis

And the people said unto me, Wilt thou not tell us what these things are to us, that thou doest so? shows the exiles recognized the prophetic significance. Ezekiel's bizarre behavior was obviously a sign, prompting their inquiry. This demonstrates the effectiveness of prophetic theater—unusual actions create curiosity and teachable moments. God uses the unexpected to capture attention. Then I answered them, The word of the LORD came unto me, saying begins his explanation. The sign will be interpreted, connecting personal tragedy to national catastrophe. Prophetic signs require explanation to be understood fully; mystery must be illuminated.

Historical Context

Ezekiel frequently enacted prophetic signs: lying on his side (4:4-8), eating defiled food (4:9-17), shaving his head (5:1-4), and now refusing to mourn. Each sign provoked questions, creating opportunities to deliver God's word. Performance art served prophecy. The exiles learned to watch Ezekiel's actions for revelation.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does unusual behavior create opportunities for gospel witness?
2. What role does curiosity play in opening hearts to God's word?
3. How should we use life's circumstances as occasions for testimony?

Interlinear Text

וְאִדָּבָר	אֶל	הָעָם	בַּבֹּקֶר	וַתָּמָת	אִשְׁתִּי	וּבָעָרֶב
So I spake	H413	unto the people	in the morning	died	my wife	and at even
H1696		H5971	H1242	H4191	H802	H6153
וַאֲנִי עָשִׂיתִי	בַּבֹּקֶר	כְּאֲשֶׁר רָצִיתִי				
and I did	in the morning	H834	as I was commanded			
H6213	H1242		H6680			

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