

## **“I Sat Where They Sat”**

In connection with the call of Ezekiel, by whose instructions God's remnant was to be preserved, we have set forth the true qualifications of God's watchman: He must be filled with the word of God; must be courageous; and must sit “where they sat” (Ezekiel 3.1-3, 4-11, 15). Though all of these thoughts need to be impressed upon the minds of children of God, one having to be a type of “watchman” to be God's child (Galatians 6.1; James 5.19-20), we are presently concerned with the qualifications which serves as the title of this article.

It seems that in far too many cases where folks have the ability and courage to handle God's word to the salvation of a soul, indifference and/or ineffectiveness is apparent as a result of not truly understanding the sinner's condition. We just don't usually apply ourselves to sitting where another sits; walking in his shoes, if you please; bearing another's burden (Galatians 6.2). It might be surprising, the benefits we can reap from such.

Obviously, such involvement would tend toward the desire to be more involved. What do you think was on the mind of Ezekiel after his seven days among the people? Certainly, he viewed them as desperately in need of God's word. Such is not less the case with folks today. We are just less impressed with such, generally, because we are less involved with the sinner (not the sin), personally! Yet, people are lost or saved on just such a basis – personally.

Furthermore, sitting where another sit helps to see his situation as it really is. This is as opposed to seeing it as it has been represented to us (by himself or others), or seeing it as we have imagined it to be. Nothing is more necessary to solving any problem than truly understanding it. Such is no less true in dealing with the sinner. Moreover, understanding his situation helps us to do what needs to be done, in the proper spirit (Galatians 6.1).

With reference to the preceding thoughts, we need to focus our attention on the trend toward aloofness among brethren. This writer once heard a brother express an idea to the effect that he thought a preacher was binding where God has not bound to encourage brethren to be socialize more with one another. Call it “socializing,” “getting together,” or whatever, but in some way, we are going to have to sit where our brother sits (become intimately associated with him) in order to fulfill our primary obligation as watchmen – that which is to be directed toward brethren

(Galatians 6.10).

How can one help his brother bear his burden (or know what burden he needs help in bearing) or truly understand his need to be restored if his relationship with him begins and ends at the place of worship?

Truly, we need to sit where others sit – often. – Terry L. Sumerlin, **The Preceptor**, January 1976.