

Ezekiel 33:32 (MSG)

To them you're merely entertainment—a country singer of sad love songs, playing a guitar. They love to hear you talk, but nothing comes of it.

We should not be going to church to be entertained in a new way. Don't we get enough entertainment in the world? But the purpose of the church is not to entertain people, but to equip believers.

† **Ephesians 4:12** *for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.*

So, if you are just being entertained in church, you might as well bring a big tub of popcorn and a soda to church with you instead of your bible.

Yet how many go to church with that same attitude of being entertained, and some have even left the church because they are not entertained enough. So, let's read today's verse in its context, and see how many are really like this today?

† **Ezekiel 33:30-32 (MSG)** *As for you, son of man, you've become quite the talk of the town. Your people meet on street corners and in front of their houses and say, 'Let's go hear the latest news from GOD.' They show up, as people tend to do, and sit in your company. They listen to you speak, but don't do a thing you say. They flatter you with compliments, but all they care about is making money and getting ahead. To them you're merely entertainment—a country singer of sad love songs, playing a guitar. They love to hear you talk, but nothing comes of it.*

That last line speaks volumes as people “*love to hear (the pastor) talk, but nothing comes of it.*” Some love going to church because of the cool music and how it makes them “feel” and the message that makes them “feel” good and they walk out never changed other than feeling better about their sinful lifestyle. It's like, “*Yeah I love that church, because I never feel guilty about how I am living, and I feel really good about myself when I leave.*”

Sometimes we even invite others to church to be saved, but are we inviting them to be saved by entertainment?

How many have you heard say (or maybe we have said ourselves), “*I don't like that song, or the way they do that song, or it was written by that church so we shouldn't sing that song.*” Spoiler Alert, worship and the songs sung and played in church are not for you, they are for God and Jesus, inspired by the Holy Spirit. But when we say I don't like that song, it makes worship all about us. It's like someone saying, “*Why do you listen to that group or type of music, I don't like them.*” Uh, excuse me I listen to the music I want to because I like it. I don't listen for your good pleasure. Just like worship music in church is not for us, but for God's good pleasure.

Or, how about, “*I didn’t really care for the message today, the pastor wasn’t that funny, or it was boring.*” Once again, with that thought process, it’s all about me, and it doesn’t matter that the Lord spoke to others at church with that same message, and even saved some, because it’s all about me. Sometimes the reason we don’t like the message is a heart issue, not a message issue. Once again, when it’s all about me, that’s a huge heart issue for us as a believer.

So just looking at these few examples, we can see how we can so easily turn a Sunday church service into an entertainment day instead of a life changing day.

- † **Matthew 11:16-17** *But to what shall I liken this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their companions, and saying: 'We played the flute for you, And you did not dance; We mourned to you, And you did not lament'*
- † **Matthew 7:22-23** *Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'*
- † **Mark 11:17** *Then He taught, saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it a 'den of thieves.' "*
- † **Isaiah 2:3-5** *Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore. O house of Jacob, come and let us walk In the light of the LORD.*