

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

Series: "How to Survive in the Kingdom of God"

Message: "The Law of Responsibility"

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We've been talking about how to survive in the Kingdom of God, about how we are to live in God's kingdom under His reign and rule. We spent time considering the over-arching Law of Cause and Effect, God the Sovereign Cause, Man the Responsible Agent and Secondary Cause. We've been sharing some specifics under the principles: As we do, God will do.

Today we're going to talk about the Law of Responsibility. We find it in Luke 12. In this chapter, Jesus gives 5 warnings. We are to:

- Beware of hypocrisy and depend on the Holy Spirit.
- Beware of covetousness.
- Beware of worrying.
- Beware of carelessness. Be faithful; work with integrity.
- Beware of spiritual dullness by utilizing discernment and diligence.

It's in the section concerning carelessness that we find our Law of Responsibility. In Luke 12:35-53, Jesus exhorts us to "Wait and Watch" for the Lord's return. Then He encourages us to be working when He comes. Each one has some work to do in this world, assigned to us by the Lord. Our responsibility is to be found faithful when Jesus comes.

35"Let your waist be girded and *your* lamps burning; **36**and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. **37**Blessed *are* those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down *to eat*, and will come and serve them. **38**And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find *them* so, blessed are those servants. **39**But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would [g]have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. **40**Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

41Then Peter said to Him, "Lord, do You speak this parable *only* to us, or to all *people*?"

42And the Lord said, "Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom *his* master will make ruler over his household, to give *them their* portion of food [h]in due season? **43**Blessed *is* that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. **44**Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has. **45**But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, **46**the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for *him*, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint *him* his portion with the unbelievers. **47**And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare *himself* or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many *stripes*. **48**But he who did not know, yet

committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more. Luke 12:35-48 NKJV

We can also reference that to 1 Corinthians 4:2.

1So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.
2Now it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. 3I care very little, however, if I am judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself.... 1 Corinthians 4:1, 2 Berean.

We're not going to find it all so easy because we are aliens in enemy territory. Actually the devil is here now illegally. It's like going into an area after you won the war and working to get the enemy to keep the terms of that victory settlement. So we will be warring as well.

But today, we're going to look more deeply into Luke 12:42ff. And there is our Law of Responsibility found in verse 48.

From everyone who has been given much, shall much be required and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more. Luke 12:48.

Did you think about Joseph, the life of Joseph, while we were reading that? I certainly did. I thought about Joseph and how he was so diligent even when he was a slave to Potiphar and then he was falsely accused and put into prison. Still he was very diligent to whatever work was assigned to him. Soon he was put in charge of everything in the prison. And finally he was put in charge of all Egypt. He certainly lived this Law. "From everyone who has been given much, shall much be required and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more." You see, the Lord was with Joseph so he became a successful man.

Relationships determine roles and roles determine responsibility.

We have a responsibility to look for Jesus, for His return. The motive for Christian life and service must be a desire to know God, to glorify Him by enjoying Him, to demonstrate supreme loyalty and attachment to Jesus Christ by keeping His commandments and by loving one another as we have first been loved by God, and to be found faithful at Jesus' return.

Why? Because we are in relationship with God through Christ. That relationship determines our role and our role determines our responsibility. Also, our relationship with others depends upon our relationship with the Godhead. Those relationships determine other roles which in turn determine other responsibilities.

Determine relationships, roles, and responsibilities. So, it's helpful to list our relationships starting first of all with our relationship with God through Christ. After determining our various roles, we can list our responsibilities under each role.

Favor carries with it responsibility. By grace, we have been given ability from God to respond in a God-honoring way; thus, responsibility. We are accountable according to the measure of God's gifts and graces to glorify God with our whole being. That is our function in the Kingdom of God.

For example, maybe we are praying and asking God for stuff. Maybe we want a windfall of money, a larger house, a company with 100 employees under us, a larger church, perfect health,

more intelligence, higher and higher grades in school, friends, or salvation for family members. If we ask God for something, then we must be willing to accept the responsibility and expectations that go with what we ask.

Listen to what we find in James 3:1. Here we read, **“Let not many of you become teachers my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment.”** That just means we’d be more accountable because with favor comes responsibility.

So we’re out there asking for these things, praying for various things, and we all want more. But what would happen if we did suddenly become a multi-millionaire overnight? Could we handle the money as a good steward of Christ? Have we been preparing ourselves by learning how to invest, how to manage money? How are we doing balancing our bank accounts, paying bills, staying out of debt, and managing what we have right now? More money may not be the immediate answer. Even if God supplied it, we may not be able to manage it.

Look, this isn’t just for adults. This starts in childhood. Parents are to train up their children, to help them discover their gifts and talents and abilities and coach them. No parenting—do not despair. God is the perfect Parent. He trains, prepares, disciplines, and loves with a perfect love.

“If you want to change the world, start off by making your bed.” Navy Seal Admiral William H. McRaven. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBuIGBCF9jc>

The military figured out the importance of making one’s bed and thus accomplishing one task per instructions. We may groan and squirm, but making our beds each morning is proven to set the day for success. It starts one out with greater confidence. Make your bed properly because if you can’t get that right, how will you get it right in crunch time? Overcome carelessness.

The one who is faithful in that which is least is also faithful in much. Despise not small beginnings. Watch out when pressing God for something. Learn to be content; trust the Lord to promote. Sound like tough love? It is, but without abuse, without evil.

As Charles Spurgeon said, and as I often quote, “Look not to the honor; but tend to the responsibility.”

Paul was an Apostle. His office and role had responsibilities. Romans 1:14 tells us about his sense of responsibility. Paul wrote, **“I’m under obligation both to Greeks and to Barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. Thus for my part, I’m eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.”** You see, Paul knew his responsibility. Check out his life story. Paul carried the burden of the churches. He endured persecution, prison, perils, and challenges in his good fight for the purity of the church and the Gospel. He finished well.

At its very base, it is an honor to be alive. We’re responsible to our Creator for that life that He has given to us. As we grow in grace, we become more accountable. More is expected of us. Unlike too many parents, God doesn’t expect more of us than He gives us in grace, gifts, and abilities. For what He requires, He enables by the outpouring of His Spirit, His grace, His love, His mercy, His truth, His light, etc.

Do we want honor and a higher position in life? Well, then work. Work faithfully and diligently at the tasks for today. We can get training for where we want to be. For example, are we preparing ourselves to live eternally with a holy God in heaven? Are we preparing to meet Him face to face? Are we even making our beds?

God always has a place for the person who is prepared. Let's get ready and act in accord with God's will as we now know it, being sensible and faithful. God promotes those who are right now obeying His will faithfully, getting ready for Him to show up again.

Remember the Law of Responsibility: From everyone who has been given much, shall much be required and to whom they've entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.

Remember, relationships determine roles and roles determine responsibilities. Our primary relationship is with God. All other relationships depend upon it. With favor comes responsibility. Want more from God? Start preparing now for the desired relationship and role. Where might we start? We can start with making our bed properly. It takes work. God has a place for the person who is prepared.

Finally, let's be clear. Eternal life is a gift, a free gift to us but a very costly gift of immeasurable worth. We cannot earn it nor do we deserve it. We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone, and even that faith is a gift. It is all through grace from the God of all Grace. We deserve eternal punishment, but Jesus gave Himself as the offering to pay the penalty for our sin, satisfying divine justice in our behalf and for our benefit. God provided Himself a sacrifice to ensure reconciliation with Him, to enable redemption by the blood of the Lamb, to enable the cancellation of the debt note of sin and thus free us from guilt and liability. Jesus bore the wrath of God, the curse, the sin, and all righteousness as the only Righteous One. Jesus triumphed over the kingdom of darkness, destroying its works. Jesus accomplished it. Our justification is by grace alone, by faith alone, by Christ alone. We receive Jesus into our hearts and through repentance, continually being conformed to the image of Jesus Christ, we are sanctified. We were created in Christ Jesus unto good works, works wrought in God. Those works we do empowered by the Holy Spirit who dwells within every true believer. So we work.

Jesus was sent by the Father to save a people, those given to Him by the Father. He loses not one. The Father is working and Jesus is working right up to this very moment. His place at the right hand of the Father Almighty is exalted such that at the name of Jesus, every knee will bow. Yet our Sovereign Lord walked and worked in all humility, carrying out His role as Savior and Lord, fulfilling all responsibilities. We are not called to be Saviors, but we are called to be disciples, to be learners, to follow Christ, and to be witnesses before the watching world. Amen.

Mary Craig, D. Min.

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