

# RESPONSIBILITY

A duty or obligation to satisfactorily perform or complete a task (assigned by someone, or created by one's own promise or circumstances) that one must fulfil, and which has a consequent penalty for failure.

# **Meaning of responsibility**

- **Responsibility is taking care of your duties.**
- **Responsibility is answering for your actions.**
- **Responsibility is accountability.**
- **Responsibility is trustworthiness**

# **Why is being responsible important**

- **Responsibility is a core value for living honourably.**
- **Responsibility is being accountable for your behaviour.**
- **Responsibility is being dependable when you have things to do**

# **Examples of responsibility**

- **You complete your chores at home without being constantly reminded.**
- **You take good care of your personal possessions.**
- **You come home on time.**
- **You call your parents if you are late.**
- **You eat healthy food, get plenty of exercise, and take good care of yourself.**
- **You keep a promise.**
- **You complete your school assignments on time and to the best of your ability.**
- **You take care of your pet.**
- **You return library books on time.**

# **Responsible children**

- **Understand and accept consequences for their actions and try to correct their mistake**
- **Complete assignments and tasks**
- **Clean up after themselves**
- **Do the 'right thing' and apologize if wrong**
- **Help others in need**
- **Understand the effect they have on others**

## **Proverbs and maxims**

- **Ideas don't work unless we do.**
- **If everyone sweeps in front of his own front door, all the world would be clean.**
- **What is popular is not always right. What is right is not always popular.**

# ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY

- **All of us have responsibilities whether it is at home, at our work place, at our school, in our community, at our church.**
- **Both men, women and children have responsibilities in life.**
- **No human being can say I have no responsibility.**

**YOU MADE A MESS, YOU CLEAN IT UP**



**RESPONSIBILITY**



## **God loves us**

- **A key understanding Christians need is this: the fact that God loves us and in His love justifies us does not mean God wants us to live and act irresponsibly.**

## Cont.

- **As any loving, responsible father, God knows what is in our best interest.**
- **As any loving, responsible father, God sees and knows dangers we children do not see and do not understand.**
- **As any loving, responsible father, God seeks what is best for us even when we profoundly disagree with Him on what is best.**

## Cont.

- **As any loving, responsible father, God knows He cannot void the consequences of the children's thoughtless choices.**
- **As any loving, responsible father, God knows the certain way to eliminate consequences for His children is to encourage His children to make reasonable serious decisions.**
- **We as a society do not like responsibility. We as a society do not like accountability.**

## Cont.

- **How rarely do you hear someone in any arena of society voluntarily step forward early in any form of catastrophe and say, “It was my fault! That was my responsibility! I am accountable for this failure! I am to blame!” Such happens so rarely that our society is quite sceptical if such acknowledgments occur.**

# CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY

**Jesus taught us how to teach responsibility. We can and must do so, for the good of the nation, for the good of the family, for the good of the church and, most importantly, for the good of our children.**

- Luke 10:27 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.”**

**That’s our responsibility as Christians.**

# **EVERYONE HAS TO BE RESPONSIBLE**

- **When God provided manna from heaven to the Israelites in the wilderness, it was the responsibility of the Israelites to wake up early and collect the bread given. God did not throw manna directly into their mouth whilst they were just sitting down. Everyone has to be responsible, everyone has to do something.**

# **THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD**

## **SAMARITAN**

**Luke 10:30-37**

**<sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead.**

**<sup>31</sup> Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side.**

## CONT.

**<sup>32</sup> So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him.**



## A RESPONSIBLE SAMARITAN

**<sup>35</sup> And the next day he took out two silver coin and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ <sup>36</sup> Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbour to the man who fell among the robbers?” <sup>37</sup> He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”**

- We need to be responsible for our actions.**

## Matthew 27:24

- **When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. “I am innocent of this man's blood,” he said. “It is your responsibility!”**

## Acts 18:6)

- **But when the Jews opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am clear of my responsibility. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”**

## **Romans 12:6-8**

- We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

**Mr. Brown once worked in a hospital where a patient knocked over a cup of water, which spilled on the floor beside the patient's bed. The patient was afraid he might slip on the water if he got out of the bed, so he asked a nurse's aide to mop it up.**

## Cont.

**The patient didn't know it, but the hospital policy said that small spills were the responsibility of the nurse's aides while large spills were to be mopped up by the hospital's housekeeping group.**

**The nurse's aide decided the spill was a large one and she called the housekeeping department. A housekeeper arrived and declared the spill a small one. An argument followed.**

## Cont.

**“It's not my responsibility,” said the nurse's aide, “because it's a large puddle.” The housekeeper did not agree. “Well, it's not mine,” she said, “the puddle is too small.”**

**The exasperated patient listened for a time, then took a pitcher of water from his night table and poured the whole thing on the floor.**

**“Is that a big enough puddle now for you two to decide?” he asked.**

**It was, and that was the end of the argument. On the contrary, taking responsibility earns us respect. We can’t be perfect all the time, we all make mistakes.**



## Cont.

**When we accept responsibility after something went wrong, we are accepting the blame for our actions and also accepting the responsibility for making improvements in our lives. Accepting responsibility is a measure of one's self-worth, our level of security, and the true sign of strength and courage. Having this ability can empower us to grow in ways that would bring us great rewards and accomplishments in our life.**

# **THE BIBLICAL ORDER OF MEN AND WOMEN IN THE FAMILY AND THE CHURCH**

- **There were many responsible men and women of God recorded in the Bible who played a big role in the word of God. In God's plan men and women were made for different roles. God first created Adam and gave him the responsibility to work and keep the Garden. (Gen. 2:15) Genesis 2:18 says that God made Eve and she was created to be a "help meet" for man. Her position in reference to man is defined as first "a helper," literally, "a help,". Adam in fulfilling his responsibilities in the Garden needed help and God gave that responsibility to Eve.**

## CONT.

- **If Adam was to achieve his God directed objectives in life, he needed the help of his mate. In the creation of Eve, God set forth His plan for the role of women. God's plan for Eve was that she was to be at Adam's side in every way, from having offspring to being Adam's partner in all that was needed for him to carry on his obligations; being his counterpart. Eve was a much needed part of Adam, making him complete by agreeing with him mentally, physically, spiritually. She was not made as an inferior being in any degree, but with a different and equally important role and purpose in life.**

# **Jonah Flees From the LORD**

- **Jonah 1:1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: <sup>2</sup> “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.” <sup>3</sup> But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.**

# JONAH IN THE BELLY OF A FISH



**JONAH  
PREACHES IN  
NINEVEH**



## **Luke 11:32**

- **The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.**
- **Jonah acted responsibly after realising that he had acted irresponsibly in the first place and people in Nineveh were saved.**

## Cont.

- **Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. <sup>5</sup> All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.**
- **God had given Jonah a responsibility and when he decided to flee from the Lord to another direction he came responsible for the violent storm that threatened the ship.**



# JOHN THE BAPTIST



# JOHN'S RESPONSIBILITY

- **Let's look at John The Baptist's responsibility:**
- **John The Baptist was the chosen of God to baptise Jesus Christ, and that itself is of tremendous significance. He was a remarkable man.**

## CONT.

- Listen to what our Lord Jesus Christ had to say about him in Luke 11:11
- “ I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John The Baptist yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John The Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing.
- That’s the comment coming from the lips of Our Lord.

## CONT.

- **You cannot go back into the O.T. and find anyone that's greater than John the Baptist. You may find some as great – but very few.**
- **Our Lord said that only those that are born in the kingdom are greater than he is today, but at that time he stood head and shoulders above others.**
- **Will you look with me at this man and as we look we will also see why our Lord was baptised.**

# JOHN THE SUBJECT OF PROPHECY

- John, therefore, was a key figure in the preparation of the Messiah's work.
- Malachi 3:1 "See I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.

# ISAIAH 40:3

- A voice of one calling: “In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.”
- Malachi and Isaiah prophesied about John the Baptist.
- We see that John had a great responsibility. He had to be prepared. He had to preach his message into the wilderness - a very unusual place. His diet was locusts and wild honey – again an unusual diet for a man.
- But he was doing a tremendous job, “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”.

# Baptism of repentance

- Matthew 3:11
- John the Baptist said, “I baptise you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”

## CHRIST WAS BEFORE JOHN

- Moreover, although John was chronologically older than Jesus, he declared that Christ “was before” him (John 1:15).
- “This was he of whom I said, He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me”.



## Luke 16:16

- Jesus said: “The law and the prophets were until John: from that time the gospel of the kingdom of God is preached.
- He had successfully, responsibly accomplished his mission faithfully to the Lord.

# JOHN A MAN OF VISION

- John the Baptist was simple in his faith in God. He did not try to impress anyone. He was a man of vision. He knew exactly where he was in his times. He knew his role, his purpose and his identity.
- The simple, humble, and courageous men who are willing to serve and wait on God in the long silences, who wait to hear what God says before they go tell the world, they seek only to glorify God and Christ! John was that kind of a man.

## CONT.

- He was powerful and prophetic. He was God's chosen man, and the Holy Spirit was using him. People were coming to hear his message, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." His message was that of the forerunner of the Messiah.

# Matthew 2:13

Will you listen to this - one of the loveliest passages in the Word of God.

- Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to forbade him, saying, I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me. Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness.”

# Baptism of Jesus



# JORDAN WHERE JESUS WAS BAPTISED



# VALUE OF LIFE AND MINISTRY of JOHN

## THE BAPTIST

- What is the value of life and ministry of John the Baptist for us today?
- Five tough words to continually weave into our way of serving Christ boldly, but humbly:
  1. Submission
  2. Dedication
  3. Obedience
  4. Perseverance
  5. Sacrifice

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