

Lost Words: Personal Responsibility

Dr. Les Hughes

June 21, 2009

Important Items in Worship

“Be A Rock Star” is the current emphasis. All Westwood members are encouraged to find a place to “serve in the church.”

The Tailgate Party is coming up next Sunday, June 28. Be sure to sign up for a space and make plans to attend.

Outline of Sermon

1. To accept personal responsibility runs counter to our nature and our culture.
2. To accept personal responsibility places me under the hand of a faithful and trustworthy God.
3. Lesson 3 says, “My failure to accept personal responsibility for my actions and decisions will lead to negative consequences for my life.”

Scripture: 2 Samuel 15:13-15; 24-26

¹³ A messenger came and told David, "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom."

¹⁴ Then David said to all his officials who were with him in Jerusalem, "Come! We must flee, or none of us will escape from Absalom. We must leave immediately, or he will move quickly to overtake us and bring ruin upon us and put the city to the sword."

¹⁵ The king's officials answered him, "Your servants are ready to do whatever our lord the king chooses." <skip>

²⁴ Zadok was there, too, and all the Levites who were with him were carrying the ark of the covenant of God. They set down the ark of God, and Abiathar offered sacrifices ^[c] until all the people had finished leaving the city.

²⁵ Then the king said to Zadok, "Take the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the LORD's eyes, he will bring me back and let me see it and his dwelling place again. ²⁶ But if he says, 'I am not pleased with you,' then I am ready; let him do to me whatever seems good to him."

Other Passages Sited

None available that aren't listed in questions below.

Group Session

Opening Question

We all see people not accept responsibility for their actions. When is the last time you saw someone boldly accept responsibility for their actions? How did that make you feel?

Digging for Truth

1. Lesson 1 says, "To accept personal responsibility runs counter to our nature and our culture." From the Scripture passage, what is your understanding of how David was accepting responsibility for his actions?

2. Why do you think taking responsibility runs counter to our nature and culture?

Which of these factors keep you and me from accepting personal responsibility?

3. Lesson 2 says, "To accept personal responsibility places me under the hand of a faithful and trustworthy God." Reword this truth in your own words.

How does taking responsibility show our trust in God?

4. Proverbs 28:13 says, "He who conceals his sins will not prosper. But he who confesses and forsakes them will find mercy." Similarly, lesson 3 says, "My failure to accept personal responsibility for my actions and decisions will lead to negative consequences for my life."

What negative consequences do you believe will follow someone who makes the wrong choices?

5. What do you think are the consequences on God's kingdom when we fail to accept responsibility for our actions?

Closing Thoughts

In what areas of our lives can we do a better job of accepting responsibility for our actions?

What areas do we commit to change this week?