

2-13-2016, COTR Texarkana

Title: Responsible or Irresponsible?

Purpose: Provoke people to be responsible to take care of themselves, their family and the poor and needy.

Spiritual Truth: Do I take care of my responsibilities or do I expect someone else to do it?

Text: Proverbs 24: 30-34

Topic: Responsible, Irresponsible, Character, Family, Work, Poor

Series: What's Inside?

Series Purpose: Provoke people to develop godly character and personal values that reflect a Biblical worldview.

## **Responsible or Irresponsible?**

### **I. Introduction**

#### **A. Review- series video**

A.1. Listen to messages @ChurchOnTheRock.org or on the COTR iPhone/ Android app

A.2. Series title: What's Inside? This is a series about character, personal values, and the principles that guide us. Each week we'll contrast godly character and values with a worldly counterpart and ask ourselves what character and values we want to have.

A.3. Last week we talked about "Integrity or Deception". We asked the question, are we honest and truthful or do we lie, cheat and steal.

#### **B. Today we'll ask the question, Spiritual Truth: Do I take care of my responsibilities or do I expect someone else to do it?**

#### **C. Title: Responsible or Irresponsible?**

C.1. Def. responsible: someone that takes care of their obligations.

C.2. A responsible person works, if they're able, to provide for their needs, pays their bills, doesn't expect others to take care of them, plans for the future and doesn't act like a victim who is owed something. They recognize their God given obligation to care for themselves, their family and are eager to help people in need.

C.3. An irresponsible person is just the opposite. They're lazy, waste time at work, skip school, don't care about people in need, don't plan for the future and blame someone else for their problems.

#### **D. I want to start with an apology today because it's a good chance I will unintentionally offend you. Don't not put up a wall but listen to the Bible as we look for truth to live by.**

- E. Purpose: Provoke people to be responsible to take care of themselves, their family and the poor and needy.

## II. Irresponsible people ignore their obligations

- A. Video: Wing Clips. *Changling*

- B. Proverbs 24:30–34 (NLT) I walked by the field of a **lazy** person, the vineyard of one with no common sense. 31...It was **covered with weeds**, and its **walls were broken down**. 32 Then, as I looked and thought about it, I learned this lesson: 33 **A little extra sleep**, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest— 34 then **poverty** will pounce on you like a bandit; **scarcity** will attack you like an armed robber.

- B.1. This guy lived in a broken down house and didn't have enough food to eat because he was lazy. He'd rather go back to sleep than get up and go to work to provide for his family. His lack of Biblical character caused him to live in poverty.

- B.2. It's the same today for many people. Website "fabulously broke" stats on workplace productivity: employees admit to wasting 3 hrs. a day on web surfing, socializing and spacing out...but complain because they don't make more \$.

- B.3. In America you can be lazy and irresponsible and the government will support you. Big government socialism promises free healthcare, free education, free food, free phones, etc. not just for those who can't work but for those who won't work. When we're in trouble Government assistance is a blessing but it was meant to help in time of need not become a way of life. Paul Ryan says our safety net could become a hammock that lulls able-bodied people into lives of dependency and complacency.

- B.4. There are numerous behaviors that irresponsible people tend to pursue: (1) Proverbs 28:20 (MSG) Committed and persistent work pays off; **get-rich-quick schemes** are rip-offs. (2) gambling (3) getting drunk and getting high (4) stealing. No sub 4 work

## III. God wants us to be responsible and work to care of ourselves and others

- A. Responsible people take care of themselves. 1 Thes. 4:11–12 (NIV) ...You should mind your own business and **work with your hands...**12 so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and **so that you will not be dependent on anybody**.

- A.1. Work is God's way for us to earn money to take care of our self instead of having to depend on others.

- A.2. 2 Thessalonians 3:7–12 (NIV) For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. **We were not idle (NCV lazy)** when we were with you, 8 nor did we eat anyone's food **without paying** for it. On the contrary, **we worked night and**

**day**, laboring and toiling **so that we would not be a burden to any of you.** 9 We did this, not because we do not have the **right** to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a **model** for you to imitate.

- A.2.a Biblical basis for the churches support of its ministers and missionaries. 1 Corinthians 9:14 (NLT) ...the Lord ordered that **those who preach the Good News (the gospel) should be supported by those who benefit from it.**
- A.3. Verse 10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “The one who is **unwilling to work shall not eat.**” 11 We hear that some among you are idle (*NCV they refuse to work*) and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. (MSG) 12 This must not be tolerated. **We command them to get to work immediately—no excuses, no arguments—and earn their own keep.** 13 Friends, don’t slack off in doing your **duty.**
- A.4. If I work is it ok to spend all my money on myself?
- B. Responsible people take care of their family. (not everyone can take care of themselves; this is an opportunity to show the love of God)
  - B.1. 1 Tim. 5:8 (NCV) Whoever does not care for his own **relatives**, especially **his own family members**, has turned against the faith and is worse than someone who does not believe in God. E.g. Esther 2:7 (NCV) Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah (*Esther*), **who had no father or mother, so Mordecai took care of her...**when her father and mother died.
    - B.1.a Parents taking care of children (I have less and can go on fewer vacations because of JH, B and R), even absentee fathers taking care of children born out of wedlock/ divorce. Singleparents.com reports only 43% of people entitled to child support receive it all and 26% didn’t receive any \$. Children taking care of aging parents (LaNell’s grandma taken in her parent’s home).
- C. Responsible people take care of the poor and needy (not everyone can take care of themselves; this is an opportunity to show the love of God)
  - C.1. Ephesians 4:28 (NIV) Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must **work**, doing something useful with their own hands, **that they may have something to share with those in need.**
    - C.1.a The purpose of work isn’t just to meet my needs but to help others.
  - C.2. Acts 20:34–35 (NLT)...these hands of mine have worked to supply my own needs and even **the needs of those who were with me.** 35 And I have been a constant

example of how **you can help those in need by working hard**. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' ”

#### IV. Conclusion: responsible people will be blessed

A. Daniel a slave as a boy who became a governor. Daniel 6:4 (NLT) Then the other administrators and high officers began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling government affairs, but they couldn't find anything to criticize or condemn. He was faithful, **always responsible**, and completely trustworthy.

A.1. Daniel chose godly character in unfair circumstances. He didn't blame others for his problems or live as a perpetual victim. It would have been easy to have a bad attitude and be mad at the world but he wasn't. He let character, not feelings control him. God made Daniel successful and He can do the same for us if we choose to be responsible.

#### v. Response

A. Prayer/ Souls

B. \*\*\* *Logos Bible Software and library were used to prepare this message.*