

Responsibilities

By Devin Martin

As many of you know, I have recently received my permit, and I can tell you know when I start the car and you run for yours. But my Dad has made it very clear to me that driving is one of the biggest responsibilities I will ever have. I realize that if I'm not careful that someone could get hurt, or I could hurt myself. But cars also take me where I need to be. Well, every responsibility has benefits, and if you're not careful, they have a downside. For example, I have responsibilities at school to do my work and turn it in; which, when you say it fast, it doesn't seem too hard. When I turn them in, I get good grades; and, when I get good grades. the parents are happy, which is a good thing. But if I don't, then I get bad grades which make my parents not happy, and when my parents are not happy, they make sure I'm not happy.

A classic story of someone not fulfilling his responsibilities is the one about the servants that were given talents while their master was gone. Matthew 25:14-30 -- *"For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 'And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. 'So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. 'Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 'And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

The two faithful servants fulfilled their responsibilities to their master and were greatly rewarded for it, but the third servant that buried the talent did not and was punished for it. God has given us the responsibility of following His will which may not be the easiest thing all the time. But there is a great reward at the end for all those who have listened and obeyed. The same applies to us if we don't do God's will; the Bible says if we fail to live up to God's standards that we will be cast away into darkness, to a place of weeping and gnashing teeth for eternity. I think that the best way is to live by God's will and be rewarded in heaven.

In school buildings, there are posters on the walls that say things like "Math is great!" or "Doing your homework is cool" with a thumbs up. Well, I saw one that was made by a student that said, "There are two dates on your tombstone: the date of your beginning and the date of your end. But neither of those dates matter. The thing that does matter is the dash between them." There is a lot of truth to that if you think about it. If you're not satisfied with your dash and feel that you need to make something right with the Lord, then do it right now!

Be Thankful

"But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful" (Col. 3:14-15).

"Every day of your life is a gift from God. Don't waste it by being angry with anyone. Don't let it slip away by feeling sorry for yourself. Be grateful for this precious gift of life and spend it by being as happy and as thankful as you possibly can. Let your mind dwell on the good things which have happened to you. Let gratitude be your attitude. Think of your assets, and don't let anyone else spoil your day for you. Enjoy every day of your life to the fullest. Realize that you can add to the joy of each day by making someone else happy" (Author Unknown).

Set Your Mind

"Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth" (Col. 3:2). "...Whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame; who set their mind on earthly things" (Phil. 3:19).

Take a look around where you are sitting and find five things that have blue in them. Go ahead and do it. With a "blue" mindset, you'll find that blue jumps out at you: a blue book on the table, a blue pillow on the couch, blue in the painting on the wall, and so on. In like fashion, you've probably noticed that after you buy a new car, you promptly see that make of car everywhere; or, when you have a newborn you see babies all around you. That's because people find what they are looking for; they notice what occupies their thinking. (From A Kick in the Seat of the Pants, by Roger Von Oech)

At times in our lives, when spiritual things seem strangely absent, it is not because they no longer exist. We simply have become preoccupied with other things. When we return our focus to spiritual things, they re-appear and our lives become more spiritually oriented.

A Moments Wisdom

- Speeders and slow-pokes both meet at the traffic light. The only time one truly profits by haste is when the Bible summons him to obey the will of God.
- Hatred is self-punishment.
- A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle.
- It pays to be honest, but often you must wait a long time to collect.
- Honesty is a question of what is right and wrong; it is not a matter of policy.
- A misty morning does not always signify a cloudy day.
- Lighthouses don't ring bells and fire cannons to call attention to themselves; they simply shine on.
- A sense of humor is the pole that adds balance to our steps as we walk the tightrope of life.