

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 10



MAN'S RESPONSIBILITY

Scripture Texts: Hebrews 9:27; Luke 12:1-9, Luke 12:47-48; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:12

There is an unchangeable line or cord connecting man with God in a permanent relationship. God created man; therefore, man is responsible to God.

This is where the theory of evolution falls tragically short. It attempts to cut that line at the point of creation. Its teaching is that man originated by himself and not by God's Creation. This would make him answerable to no one but himself. It would cast every person adrift on an endless sea without compass, chart, or goal. Thank God, that is not true!

Because God created us, we are responsible to Him. We will be judged, and each will receive back for eternity his deeds done in this life. Salvation through Christ prepares one to meet God's approval.

MEMORY VERSE: *So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*

—Romans 14:12

Judgment Is Certain

Hebrews 9:27 It is appointed. These words written in Holy Scripture always mean certainty. What God appoints comes to pass. Death and the Judgment are coming to everyone of us. Each of us will answer for our own sins or for our righteousness. Every man is responsible to warn others of their responsibility to their own soul and to God and of the coming Judgment (**Ezekiel 18:14-32; Ezekiel 33:1-16**). There is individual responsibility to meet this appointment. We will stand alone.

Nothing Will Be Hid

Luke 12:1-3 Beware ye of . . . hypocrisy—individuals who show one lifestyle and attempt to hide another. Two faces under one hat, God hates. Righteousness is open, frank, and childlike, hiding nothing. It loves light and dwells in it. On the other hand, sin loves darkness, secrecy, and deceit (**John 3:19-21**). But sinners succeed for only a time in hiding their deeds. ALL will come out, sometimes, soon, but surely at the Judgment. **Proclaimed upon the housetops.** Imagine the complete despair in this tragic scene, when a sinner finds that what he thought to be clever is most foolish, what seemed gain is eternal loss, what he thought forever gone is bound on him forever.

All will be revealed. Jesus said everything hidden will be made known. The only exception is the sins that are confessed and brought out into the light now and forgiven by faith in the blood of Jesus. Read **Jeremiah 31:34; Micah 7:19; Hebrews 10:17; Psalm 103:12; Isaiah 43:25**.

Must Confess Christ

Luke 12:4-9 Fear or courage before persecutors depends upon our spiritual condition. Persecution of Christians is commonplace all over the world. Jesus warned the saints they would meet it. We must prepare for it. We must hide with Christ in God. Persecutors cannot touch the soul. Satan can, if we let him, kill the soul for eternity. Jesus tells us to fear the one with power to cast into hell. Who is this? Hell was prepared **for the devil and his angels**, not for people. (**Matthew 25:41**) God gives **every good gift and every perfect gift** (**James**

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1:17). Jesus said He came not to destroy men's lives, but to save them. Satan has the opposite motive. If we fear Satan, we will shun all of his alluring proposals.

As we confess, we will be confessed or owned by Christ. The effective confession is not in word only. It must be of the heart, soul, mind, and strength. It is both the motivation and the expression of the life.

Denial of Christ comes from unbelief or cowardice. We are not ashamed of anything we truly believe. The presence of the Holy Spirit gives courage to help overcome cowardice (**1 John 4:18**). To neglect Christ is to deny Him.

Value of Responsibility

Luke 12:47-48 The sinner who knew—**many stripes**. The sinner in ignorance—**few stripes**. To deliberately close one's eyes against entrance of knowledge or light of God's will is knowledge enough to condemn. Even to know where to find it makes one responsible. The rewards of obedience will be on the same basis. One's memory will have much to do with the degrees of punishment or reward.

Accepted responsibility holds one on the course like a track does a train. Responsibility regulates conduct. Two persons can be told to do a certain task. One does it; the other never does it. We may say that one forgot, no, he lacked responsibility. If you want children to have their feet on the ground, put responsibility on their shoulders. A sense of responsibility would curb much of the juvenile delinquency problem.

Responsibility to God shows His care for us. It is one way He guides us. He set a goal for us to reach, a goal full of untold possibilities. Responsibility puts purpose in our living. Our success in any line depends upon our desire to accept responsibility. Are we without responsibility because we feel none? This is a time of little feeling of responsibility. How is this related to shoddy workmanship? To vandalism? To meager parental training? To disobedience? To authority? To civil disorders?

Writing Our Own Record

2 Corinthians 5:10 We must all appear, none excepted. There is no more urgent business than preparing for this appointment. What we receive then will be ours forever. What will that be? Just what each has **done in his body**— that is, while he lived in his physical body in this present earthly life. This moment you and I are writing our own record for the Judgment. When Christ considers our case, He will not overlook any sin. No. NOW is the time to seek mercy. THEN we will face justice. We will pick up the package we ourselves filled, read the verdict we ourselves wrote, reap the harvest we ourselves sowed. It will be multiplied as sown seed always is.

Revelation 20:12 The book of life will be opened. If our names are there, we will be blessed for eternity. Now is the time to get them written there by Jesus Christ. Only those who make proper preparation will have their names there. Jesus said, **He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life (John 5:24).**

JUST A THOUGHT

Yes, we are all going to the same place—the Judgment.

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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