**Truth Sowers Life Group**

October 27, 2012

**God’s Secret Kingdom – The Law of Responsibility**

**Luke 12:48b**

For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

**Introduction:** In our study on the Secret Kingdom so far, we have learned about the Law of Reciprocity, the Law of Use and the Law of Perseverance. The Law of Reciprocity shows us that in order to receive, we must first give. The Law of Use shows that we must use those gifts and talents the Lord has given us or they will taken away from us and given to another. The Law of Perseverance shows us that we must persevere and not give up even in, and especially in, the face of adversity. Now the Law of Responsibility shows us that for those of us who have been given much, much will be required of us. It is very apparent that every believer in the United States has been given very much with the ability to freely serve God and to express our religious beliefs without the fear of persecution in most cases or even death. If we go back a couple of verses in our key scripture, we see that those who do not take their gifts responsibly will be punished.

1. Whatever level of opportunity is given to us, both God and man expect us to give a certain level of performance.
   1. Favor carries with it, Responsibility.
   2. As Favor increases, Responsibility increases.

Illustration: If someone puts you in charge of $1,000 and you make a profit of $100, that is perfectly acceptable. But, if you are the CEO of General Motors and you post a yearly profit of $100, you will resign in disgrace!

If you play golf occasionally on the weekends and play well enough to get by with your friends that is okay but if you get into the professional ranks you will have to spend hours and hours practicing and perfecting your game. You can’t just play a game or two on the weekend and perform in the professional ranks!

“Arthur Rubenstein, the pianist, capsulized this principle when he remarked that should he fail practice one day, he would know it; should he skip practice for two days, the critics would know it; but should that extend to three days, “the whole world knows it.” A part time church pianist might get away with a bit of a letdown, but not an internationally acclaimed musician. More is required of the professional.”

* 1. Exercise of the Law of Use and the Law of Perseverance will bring success.
     1. The rewards of these two laws though demand the observance of the Law of Responsibility.
     2. We should never ask God for something if we are not willing to accept the responsibility for it.
     3. Harry Truman said, “If you can’t stand the heat, get out of the kitchen!”
        1. He understood the responsibility of his office.
        2. He had on his desk, “The Buck Stops Here.”

1. Responsibility comes with our calling.
   1. **James 3:1**

*Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.*

* 1. Those who have been given enough to TEACH will be expected to LIVE the life they teach about.
  2. Those who are called to be “bishops” or “pastors” are called to a deeper walk.

**1 Timothy 3:1-7**

*The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. 2Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? 6He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.*

* 1. Paul goes on to talk about the deacon’s responsibilities. While deacons don’t have to live up to the same requirements as Overseers, they still must still live a life different than most, one that is “tested” and “beyond reproach.”
  2. The Apostles had been given extraordinary responsibilities and burdens.
     1. They had been given the truth of the Secret Kingdom.
     2. Others heard parables but the apostles understood them.

**Mark 4:11**

*And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables,*

* + 1. They paid a great price for what they had been given, in spreading the gospel.
       1. Ridicule
       2. Ostracism
       3. Persecution
       4. Martyrdom

**Romans 1:14**

*I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians,[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=romans%201:14&version=ESV" \l "fen-ESV-27929a" \o "See footnote a)] both to the wise and to the foolish.*

* 1. Those of us who have received the gift of eternal life have a life that is far more responsible and demanding that what we had before.

**1 Timothy 3:15**

*if I delay, you may know how one* ***ought to behave in the household of God****, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.*

* 1. Jesus put the responsibility on us, when He ascended to Heaven to take the gospel to the world.

**Matthew 28:18-20**

*18And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

1. Nobility Obliges **“Noblesse oblige”**
   1. Men have known almost instinctively that as accomplishment and position rise, so do responsibility and burden.
   2. Capitalism works until people get greedy and don’t follow **“Noblesse oblige.”**
   3. In the United States, we have been blessed more than any country.
      1. Revelations in
         1. Law
         2. Justice
         3. Science
         4. Medicine
         5. Technology
         6. Religion
      2. All of these revelations came from God and much responsibility is required because of them.
   4. Israel was blessed by God yet they turned away from Him again and again.

**Isaiah 58**

*1-3“Shout! A full-throated shout! Hold nothing back—a trumpet-blast shout!  
Tell my people what’s wrong with their lives, face my family Jacob with their sins! They’re busy, busy, busy at worship, and love studying all about me.  
To all appearances they’re a nation of right-living people— law-abiding, God-honoring. They ask me, ‘What’s the right thing to do?’ and love having me on their side. But they also complain, ‘Why do we fast and you don’t look our way?  
    Why do we humble ourselves and you don’t even notice?’ 3-5“Well, here’s why: “The bottom line on your ‘fast days’ is profit. You drive your employees much too hard. You fast, but at the same time you bicker and fight. You fast, but you swing a mean fist. The kind of fasting you do won’t get your prayers off the ground. Do you think this is the kind of fast day I’m after: a day to show off humility? To put on a pious long face and parade around solemnly in black?  
Do you call that fasting, a fast day that I, God, would like? 6-9“This is the kind of fast day I’m after: to break the chains of injustice, get rid of exploitation in the workplace, free the oppressed, cancel debts. What I’m interested in seeing you do is: sharing your food with the hungry, inviting the homeless poor into your homes, putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad, being available to your own families. Do this and the lights will turn on, and your lives will turn around at once. Your righteousness will pave your way. The God of glory will secure your passage. Then when you pray, God will answer. You’ll call out for help and I’ll say, ‘Here I am.’ 9-12“If you get rid of unfair practices, quit blaming victims, quit gossiping about other people’s sins, If you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out, Your lives will begin to glow in the darkness, your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight. I will always show you where to go. I’ll give you a full life in the emptiest of places— firm muscles, strong bones. You’ll be like a well-watered garden, a gurgling spring that never runs dry. You’ll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew, rebuild the foundations from out of your past. You’ll be known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, make the community livable again. 13-14“If you watch your step on the Sabbath and don’t use my holy day for personal advantage, If you treat the Sabbath as a day of joy, God’s holy day as a celebration, If you honor it by refusing ‘business as usual,’ making money, running here and there— Then you’ll be free to enjoy God! Oh, I’ll make you ride high and soar above it all. I’ll make you feast on the inheritance of your ancestor Jacob.” Yes! God says so!*

Conclusion: God has blessed us with SO much in this country. Even the least of us has so much more than most of the people in the world. With those blessings come responsibilities. As we learn about these laws of God’s Kingdom, we can learn to walk in His Kingdom and live with His blessings in our lives!