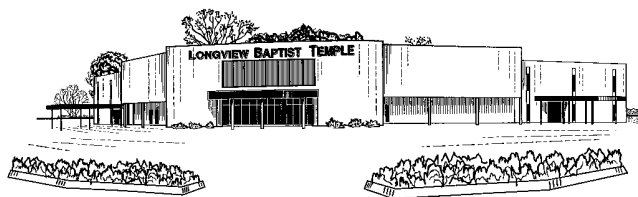


Longview Baptist Temple
Sunday School Lesson
July 27, 2008



CHRISTIAN CHARACTER TRAITS

RESPONSIBILITY

Deuteronomy 6:5, Psalm 61:8, Luke 9:23, Acts 24:16, I Corinthians 10:23, Titus 2:7

Lesson Aims:

- That your students should **know** that faithfully doing our Christian responsibilities is necessary for the blessing of the Lord.
- That your students should **show** to their authorities they are trustworthy individuals.
- That your students should **grow** as they see how partial obedience to the Word of God limits a person's ability to serve God.

Introduction:

Dictionary definition of character = a person marked by notable qualities or traits of consistency; moral excellence and firmness.

Dictionary definition of responsibility = the state of being responsible, reliable and trustworthy.

From the Christian viewpoint character is:

- The subconscious doing of right acts as prescribed in the Word of God.
- Consciously raising and improving your personal holiness.
- Implementing Christ like qualities into your life in order to bring glory to God.

From the Christian viewpoint responsibility is:

- Knowing and doing what God is expecting of me.
- Using all my energies to fulfill the expectation of those who are counting on me.
- Completing a task so that it will endure testing.
- Realizing the importance of the task assigned to me.
- Learning to establish personal restrictions and guidelines that are necessary to fulfill what you know you should do.

Questions that will help to evaluate your responsibility:

1. Would those you work for leave their most cherished possessions in your care?
2. Do you delegate to others jobs you know you should do yourself?
3. Do you work hard at fulfilling your assignments even when the boss is not around?
4. Do the decisions you make reflect a focus on what God desires for your life?

The opposite character trait of responsibility is **unreliable** which is not being able to have complete confidence in a person or the ability to fully depend on them.

Memory verse:

Romans 14:12 – “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”

Lesson:

Responsibility

Bible examples of responsibility:

1. **Eli the High Priest** – As a parent, he failed in a vital responsibility. His failure was hidden at first but later became very evident as his sons grew older.
 - At the age of 58, Eli assumes the office of High Priest in Shiloh during a period in Israel's history that has come to be known as “Israel's Dark Ages”. (I Samuel 4:15, 18)
 - As the High Priest, Eli was God's representative to Israel, their judge and spiritual leader. Eli judged Israel for forty years. (I Samuel 4:18)
 - As the High Priest, one of his chief responsibilities would have been to train his sons to succeed him. Normally the oldest son would become the High Priest of Israel after the death of his father.
 - Eli was grieved with the reports of his sons' irreverent activity as priests. (I Samuel 2:23-24)

- ✓ Eli's sons were distorting the sacrificial system, designed to teach God's character of righteousness, justice, grace and mercy. (I Samuel 2:17)
 - ✓ In the Mosaic Law (Leviticus 7:29-34) the Lord had provided for the priest in a practical way. Whenever a man came to sacrifice an animal to the Lord as a peace offering, the right shoulder and the breast, which were excellent cuts of meat, were given to the officiating priest to eat.
 - ✓ The sons of Eli were not content with what the Lord had provided and became gluttonous refusing to limit their tastes to the portion God allowed. (I Samuel 2:13-15)
 - ✓ This gluttony was literally stealing from the Lord Himself.
 - ✓ Eli's sons even demanded the fat on the meat, which belonged to the Lord and was forbidden for them to eat (Leviticus 3:16-17). (I Samuel 2:16)
 - ✓ Eli's sons introduced to the tabernacle system the shocking activity of "sacred" prostitution which was common at the surrounding Canaanite shrines. (I Samuel 2:22)
 - A Man of God comes and rebukes Eli for utterly failing in the discipline of his sons. (I Samuel 2:27-34)
 - How did Eli's two sons become so gluttonous and immoral?
 - ✓ There was a lack of discipline in Eli's personal life. He had a problem of self-control in the area of eating. (I Samuel 2:29, 4:18)
 - ✓ As his sons grew up, they became very aware of their fathers weakness and Eli slowly lost the respect of his sons and was unable to teach them self-control. As a result Hophni and Phinehas never learned to control their appetites. (I Samuel 2:29 – notice the word "yourselves")
 - ✓ It is likely that Eli's awareness of his own problems caused him to be weak and unwilling to deal with the similar problem in his son's lives.
 - ✓ Eli's lack of self-control in the area of eating opened the way for Satan to defeat Hophni and Phinehas in related areas of self-control.
 - ✓ The discipline and training for leadership that could have saved his sons lives was never given. Eli's efforts to discipline his sons appear to have been feeble efforts. (I Samuel 2:24)
 - What were the consequences of Eli's negligence?
 - ✓ Death of his two sons in one day. (I Samuel 4:17)
 - ✓ Disrespect for the priesthood. (I Samuel 2:17)
 - ✓ Departure of the glory of the Lord from Israel. (I Samuel 4:22)
 - ✓ The long-term consequence – that none of his descendants would live past their prime. (I Samuel 2:31-32)
 - ✓ Eli died with a broken and grieved spirit, realizing that he was personally responsible for the spiritual decline of the nation Israel.
2. **King Saul** – Because he did not realize the importance of the task assigned to him, his right to reign as king over Israel was removed from him. (I Samuel 15)
- God gives clear instructions, through the prophet Samuel, to King Saul, the commander in chief, concerning the mission. (I Samuel 15:2-3)
 - ✓ He was to utterly destroy all the people.
 - ✓ He was to utterly destroy all their possessions.
 - With an army of 210,000 men, Saul crept into the valley next to the city of Amalek and attacked the city with the victory belonging to Israel. (I Samuel 15:7)
 - The irresponsible leader demonstrated partial obedience and did not fully obey the directive of God. (I Samuel 15:8-9)
 - What were the consequences of Saul's disobedience?
 - ✓ The Lord rejected him from being king over Israel and selected another to replace him. (I Samuel 15:23, 26, 28)
 - ✓ The Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul and an evil spirit terrorized him for the remainder of his life.
 - ✓ Saul was severely wounded in a fierce battle with the Philistines and was eventually put to death, at his own request, by an Amalekite. (II Samuel 1:5-10)