



Individual Responsibility in Human Interactions

Living in the Image of God
Module 03 Session 16

Banking Blessings Ministry
San Antonio, Texas
USA



Living in the Image of God

- God creates every person to represent him in interactions with others
- Be for others what God would be for them if he lived with us in human form
- He provides resources for people to perform the responsibilities and blesses those that do

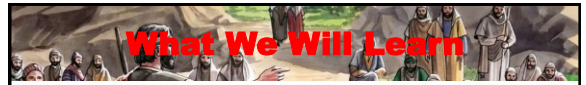
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Living in the Image of God

- Program seeks to understand the meaning, resources, and human responsibilities and benefits of *Living in the Image of God*
- Meaning
- Resources
- Human responsibilities
- Benefits

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What We Will Learn

- Individual responsibility for each person in interactions with others
- God judges a person individually based on performance of the responsibility
- Independent of others
- Irrespective of what others do or fail to do

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What We Will Learn cont'd

- He rewards each person for performance
- Independent of his reward for others
- Based on Christ teaching
- Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard
- Matthew 20:1–16

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Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

- Landowner made individual labor agreements with several workers based on time of hire
- Individual responsibility and judgment of each person in human interactions
- Landowner expectation of each worker was different
- Depending on time of hire

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Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

- He paid each worker based on judgment that they fulfilled his expectations
- Irrespective of his expectations of others
- God judges each person individually
- Independent of his judgment of others
- Matthew 20:1–15

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Mathew 20 (NIV)

1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard.

2 He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

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Mathew 20 (NIV)

3 "About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing.

4 He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.'

5 So they went. "He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing.

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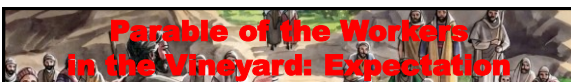


Mathew 20 (NIV)

6 About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?'

7 "Because no one has hired us,' they answered. "He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.'

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Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard: Expectation

- Hired workers at 5 different times early, 9 am, 12 noon, 3 pm, and 5 pm
- Different expected hours of work per day

- What God expects of a person in human interactions
- Independent of what he expects of others

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Mathew 20 (NIV)

8 "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.'

9 "The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius.

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10 So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius.

11 When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner.

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12 'These who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.'

13 "But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius?'

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14 Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you.

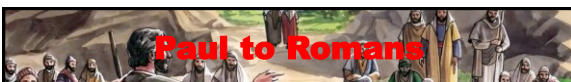
15 Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

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- Each worker was paid for fulfilling landowner expectation of him
- God judges based on performance of individual responsibility
- Independent of what others do or fail to do

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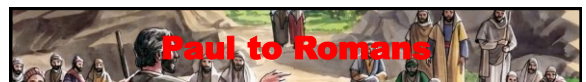


- Paul's letter to Romans regarding individual responsibility for peace

Romans 12:18

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

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- "If it is possible," means you should explore the situation to determine what makes peace possible
- "As far as it depends on you" means you should focus on aspects that depend on you

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What We Learned

- God assigns individual responsibility to every person in every situation
- Find your individual responsibility, to understand God's purpose for you in a given situation.
- Focus on performing your responsibility
- Irrespective of what others do or fail to do
- He judges every person individually
- Independent of his judgment of others
- Based on Christ teaching
- Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

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Individual Responsibility in Human Interactions

Living in the Image of God M03S16

Based on Christ teaching in the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard, we learn that God assigns individual responsibility to every person in every situation. Find your responsibility to understand God's purpose for you in a given situation. Focus on performing your individual responsibility, irrespective of what others do or fail to do. He judges every person individually, independent of his judgment of other people.

We discuss Christ teaching in the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard, to understand that God assigns individual responsibility to every person in every situation. Also, he judges a person based on their performance of the individual responsibility. Furthermore, his judgment of a person is independent of his judgment of others, irrespective of what others do or fail to do. He rewards each person for performing their individual responsibility and his reward for a person is independent of his reward for others.

Christ teaching in the parable (Matthew 20:1–16) uses a hypothetical event of a landowner hiring several workers for one day's work in his vineyard. At the core of the teaching is the fact that the landowner expectation of each worker was different depending on the time of day he hired the worker. This fact conveys an aspect of human relationship with God: that God's expectation of each person in a given event is independent and could differ from his expectation of others. Furthermore, he judges each person individually and independent of what others do or fail to do.

We discuss the parable to understand the message. Also, we discuss a passage from Paul's letter to the Romans, where he applies the principle to describe the individual responsibility for peace.

Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

In the parable, Christ told of a landowner that made individual labor agreements with several workers based on the time of day he hired them. He uses the interactions between the landowner and the workers to explain human relationship with God regarding individual responsibility and judgment of each person in human interactions: "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard" [Matthew 20:1]. The parable includes the landowner showing that his expectation of each worker was independent of his expectation of others and was based on the time he hired them.

The landowner payment to each worker at the end of the day showed that he judged each worker's performance based on their fulfillment of his expectations of them regarding the workday, independent of his judgment of the others.

His judgment of each person's performance was independent of his expectations of others. This aspect of the parable conveys the message that God judges each person individually. His judgment of a person is based on performance of the individual responsibility and is independent of his judgment of others.

Landowner Expectation of Each Worker

The landowner hired workers at five different times: early (i.e., about 6 am), 9 am, 12 noon, 3 pm, and 5 pm [Matthew 20:6–7]: “About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’ ‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered. He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’”

He hired every person for one day’s labor. However, the number of hours of work he expected of each person was independent of what he expected of others. The number of hours depended on the time of day he hired them. For those he hired early, he expected 12 hours of work. For those he hired at 9 am, he expected nine hours of work. He expected six hours from those he hired at 12 noon, three hours from those he hired at 3 pm, and one hour from those he hired at 5 pm.

The differences in the landowner expectation of each worker in the parable conveys an understanding regarding human relationship with God: that God’s expectation of each person in a given event is independent and could differ from his expectation of others. His expectation of a person depends on the responsibility he assigns to the person individually in a given event or situation.

Landowner Judgment of Each Worker

The landowner judged the performance of each worker based on their fulfilling his workday expectation of each of them. In his judgment, each worker fulfilled the expectation and deserved payment for one day’s labor (i.e., a denarius) [Matthew 20:9–10]: “The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius.”

Through the fact that the landowner judged each person based on fulfilling an individual expectation for the workday, the parable conveys an understanding regarding God’s judgment of a person. He judges each person based on their performance of their individual responsibility, irrespective of what others do or fail to do.

Individual Responsibility for Peace

Apostle Paul describes the individual responsibility regarding peace, in his letter to Romans: “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone” [Romans 12:18]. To understand Paul’s message, recognize that the phrase “if it is possible” can be interpreted to mean that you should search the situation to determine what makes peace possible. Furthermore, the phrase “as far as it depends on you” means you should focus on the aspects that depend on you: that is, your individual responsibility.

Summary of What We Learned

Based on Christ teaching in the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard, we learn that God assigns individual responsibility to every person in every situation. Find your responsibility to understand God’s purpose for you in a given situation. Focus on performing your individual responsibility, irrespective of what others do or fail to do. He judges every person individually, independent of his judgment of other people.