

11/7/21

ATI 37
FB 6

Sermon – Personal Responsibility (Overcoming week 2)

Scripture – Proverbs 1:5, James 1:13-18, Romans 12:21

Main Message – Learning is a process so allow yourself to not know it all.

Most barriers that prevent us as individuals to grow are of our own making. **Personal responsibility** for gaining knowledge, managing mistakes properly, gaining experience and solving the profound as well as the mundane issues of life is being thrown out the window. What is personal responsibility being replaced with? It is summed up in this one statement, “it’s not your fault.” Anyone who accepts this statement as their reality will struggle to learn anything and live the life of a powerless victim. How’s that for a start to a sermon?

This isn’t a new problem for us humans, because we all start out making excuses. What is happening in the world is that the excuses are becoming accepted out of a **phony** sense of compassion. Too many people want the pity and the sympathy offered therefore absolving them of any personal responsibility. When a person hears “it is not your fault,” it becomes acceptable to give up. Nothing good in life, or for the Kingdom of Heaven happens by giving up. Giving up doesn’t create a heart of perseverance. Giving up doesn’t address the needs of the day. Giving up gives others the license to control your destiny, because – you are the victim. Giving up, because it’s not your fault, has shut the door to learning personal value and has replaced it with personal futility.

Read Proverbs 1:5

Growing up as an only child, people say to me, “you must have been spoiled.” Yes, I was. I took all the blame when I threw a dart into the cabinet or broke the plate, or shot my finger with a BB Gun. I couldn’t blame my sibling. In the military, showing up late to an appointment would never be resolved by saying I had a flat tire, or ran out of gas or traffic was heavy... No excuses were allowed - *ever*.

I am guessing that right now you are saying in today’s vernacular, “Yeah, but.” That is implying that a valid excuse is hiding right behind the door for us to feel OK with our not figuring it out. “Yeah but” is an escape clause that keeps you living in the dark. Come out of the dark into the light. Excuses is a sin problem. “Sin is the matter of the heart before it’s ever an issue of behavior.” **Ack. Paul Tripp**

Of course, bad things can happen to us which are out of our control. We live in a world filled that has fallen from the purity of what God wanted for us. The problem is that we are not reacting to them appropriately. When life smacks us, hard or soft and we decide to play the victim card, then we will be the victim and our life more futile for it. When life smacks us hard and we respond with gained wisdom, then our personal value and effectiveness in all manner of life is enhanced. I ask you this, “Which one is a better testimony to God? ... To being a Christian... To being an overcomer.”

Read James 1:13-16 – When we think of lust, our minds usually go to sexual items first. That is not what this is saying. This lust is anything that tempts us to not take personal responsibility for the temptation we are feeling. A personal PITY party is lust. Getting Angry over some minor wrong is lust. Taking something that doesn’t belong to us because, we deserve it, *is lust*. Accepting lies told to us because it removes personal responsibility is LUST. Yeah, but is LUST. By the way this is called preaching and it doesn’t always feel good.

Indeed, God does not tempt us with Evil, but EVIL is in the world. As you all well know, EVIL does not rest. We overcome this by the goodly things passed down to us by our Heavenly Father. These are good gifts that help us to respond to evil with a victory over a thing that in the world setting looks just awful. It is nothing more than yet another opportunity to be a living testimony to His Grace.

The call of a Christian is not become a victim of Evil, but take personal responsibility in this one fashion.

Romans 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

There it is. Now you know what evil is, (lust of the flesh) and what Good is, overcoming it with goodness and mercy.