

Taking Responsibility for Your Life Leader Guide Session 2: The Disproportionate Life

Video Overview:

It was Archimedes in ancient Greece who first discovered and described the principle of buoyancy and fluid displacement.

As a principle, it's neither good nor bad; it just is. People can leverage it for positive things, or they can ignore it and face the consequences. That's the nature of the principle.

Here's another principle: *people reap what they sow*. That's always been true and always will be.

This biblical principle explains why our irresponsibility eventually becomes somebody else's responsibility. And it's why our irresponsibility always catches up with us.

Like Archimedes' principle, this biblical principle is one you can leverage for good, or you can ignore it and face the consequences.

In the Bible, we find this principle is Galatians 6. As the apostle Paul discusses our responsibility to help others as well as our need to take responsibility for ourselves, he shows us that helping others is never meant to be an excuse for acting irresponsibly in our own lives.

Paul mentions self-deception here. It's especially easy to deceive ourselves when we compare ourselves to others. It's so easy to cut ourselves too much slack and become irresponsible.

Warning us not to be deceived, Paul reminds us: "God cannot be mocked" (Galatians 6:7). He can't be outwitted, outsmarted, or fooled. Whatever irresponsibility we try to hide, God sees. If we're unwilling to carry our own loads, we'll never get by with that in the end. God is always aware of our irresponsibility, whether it's with our money, our family, our morality, our ethics, or whatever.

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With that warning, Paul brings in this basic principle: “People reap what they sow” (Galatians 6:7). It’s something we all intuitively recognize as being true. We see how life is connected—that where we are today is a result of past decisions, and where we’ll be tomorrow is connected to our choices and actions today.

God loves us so much that he lets us know about this principle ahead of time. It’s a principle we can allow to work for us.

We reap what we sow. We reap *later* and *greater*. The reaping might not come for days, or weeks, or months, or years—but eventually it will come. And the reaping will be “greater.” It will seem bigger than you can imagine. The consequences of our irresponsibility will be worse than you think is just or fair.

So we’re duly warned.

Discussion Questions:

1. “People reap what they sow”—what are some important ways that you’ve already been taught that principle, either by others or simply by the experiences of life?
2. Why is it so easy to deceive ourselves when we compare ourselves with others?
3. When you hear the biblical admonition to “carry [your] own load” (Galatians 6:5), what do you think of? For you, what’s the “load” you need to be most concerned about?
4. What does it mean to you that “God cannot be mocked” (Galatians 6:7)? Why is that instruction needed? In what ways do people try to “mock” God?
5. When you think of the fact that God sees—clearly and immediately—every instance of our irresponsibility, how do you react?

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6. Looking back on your life, how do you recognize the truth that who you are today is a result of your past decisions and actions?