**21-10-12**

**INTEGRATED RESPONSIBILITY :**

**Text: Judges 3:1-7**

* Judges 3:1 Now these [are] the nations which the LORD left, that He might test Israel by them, [that is], all who had not known any of the wars in Canaan
* Judges 3:2 ([this was] only so that the generations of the children of Israel might be taught to know war,
* at least those who had not formerly known it),
* Judges 3:3 [namely], five lords of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites who dwelt in Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal Hermon to the entrance of Hamath.
* Judges 3:4 And they were [left, that He might] test Israel by them, to know whether they would obey the commandments of the LORD, which He had commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses.
* Judges 3:5 Thus the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.
* Judges 3:6 And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons; and they served their gods
* Judges 3:7So the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. They forgot the LORD their God, and served the Baals and Asherahs.
* Judges 3:8 Therefore the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and He sold them into the hand of Cushan-Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia; and the children of Israel served Cushan-Rishathaim eight years.

**INTRO:**

* To integrate means-to make into a whole by bringing all parts together
* A man of integrity is a man whose words and actions are one, whose public and private life are the same, whose lifestyle is the same on Sundays and all days.
* Ex. Integrated Nursing Board Exam, unlike before which was by subjects

**AIM:**

* TO BE RESPONSIBLE IN ALL AREAS OF OUR LIVES

**I. THE NECESSITY OF RESPONSIBILITY-V 1**

* The Lord tested them as responsibility is COMPULSORY
* The Lord wanted them to be responsible even before possessing the promised land.
* The test was to know whether they would obey the commandments of the Lord-v 3.
* Judges 2:2- You shall make no covenants with the inhabitants of the land.
* You shall tear down their altars.
* Exodus 23:33 "They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against Me. For [if] you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you.“
* Judges 3:5- The children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, the Hittites…
* V 6-They took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons
* And they served their gods.

**II. GOD’S WAYS OF MAKING THEM/US RESPONSIBLE**

* He taught them to know war-V 2
* War was their main work for them to possess the promised land as it was occupied.
* The Lord intentionally left those nations for them.
* He didn’t do all the job for them.
* Parents should not do all the jobs for the children esp. when they are already capable of doing them.
* Pro 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.
* Failure to do this would lead to lots of problems in the future.
* Judges 2:8 Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died [when he was] one hundred and ten years old.
* Judges 2:10 When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.
* Judges 2:11 Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals;

**III. MISCONCEPTIONS OF FREEDOM**

1. **FREEDOM IS THE ABSENCE OF LAWS AND RESTRICTIONS**
2. **FREEDOM IS VOID OF WORK AND OBLIGATION**

* 2Th 3:10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.

1. **FREEDOM IS RETIREMENT FROM RESPONSIBILITY**

* The Israelites were delivered spirits with a slave mind-sets.
* When they were released from Pharaoh, they still needed him because they lack personal discipline of working independently.
* Same problem with us today, we are stuck in the wilderness of deliverance due to our Egyptian mind-sets.

1. **FREEDOM IS RELAXATION**

* Most people have fantasy of becoming rich so they could relax.
* Ex. Mormons-suffering will end
* Religion teaches us when we die we go to heaven and Rest In Peace.
* As a result we neglect our responsibilities with the intention to escape from it.

1. **FREEDOM IS THE RELEASE FROM EXTERNAL CONTROL**

* For most of us, freedom is liberty to do what you want to do, when you want to do, without answering to anybody.
* This is not freedom but Anarchy.
* External control are only necessary if people are irresponsible or immature.
* Many Christians flirt with sin to see how close they can get to the fire without getting burned.
* They may have been converts for 10 years, but they are still children.
* Responsible people live on convictions instead of corrections, live on principles instead of punishment or external control.

**IV. IRRESPONSIBILITY IS FREEDOMS’S BEST ENEMY**

* Failing the test would cause you to die in the wilderness.
* There’s no point possessing the promised land and with a blink of the eye you lost it because you are irresponsible.
* Ex. Those who aren’t earning are the ones who spent a lot.
* Those who doesn’t clean, does a lot of mess.
* The poor are behaving as if they are rich while the rich are behaving as if they are poor.
* Those who can afford, got few children while those who can’t got plenty.
* The rich work hard while the poor work less.

**V. RESPONSIBILITY IS THE WAY TO FREEDOM**

* **PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM**

**1. IN FREEDOM, YOU ARE THE BOSS WHETHER YOU WORK FOR ANOTHER OR NOT**

* Freedom is taking responsibility for your life
* It is designing your own destiny and deciding your own consequences.
* In freedom nobody had made you do it but you.
* In freedom you stop blaming others or your circumstances.
* Since you are the boss, nobody can force you what to do and restricts you not to do.
* Laws were only necessary due to our irresponsibility.
* If we can just handle our freedom, laws are irrelevant.
* Ex. Speeding, stealing, killing, etc.
* Christians are no different, they steal bond papers or staplers because others do it and they think they are free while violating the law.

**2. FREEDOM DEMANDS MORE WORK THAN SLAVERY**

* Work is the main manifestation of responsibility.
* Managers/CEO- they work more than the ordinary staffs.
* To prove that, those who neglected to work was refused in the promised land.

**3. FREEDOM DEMANDS MORE RESPONSIBILITY**

* It doesn’t mean you know how to work, you are already responsible.
* To be responsible, you don’t need to be told to do what ought to be done today, tom., next week, next month, next year…
* It took a heart fully committed to God for Joshua and Caleb to enter the promised land.
* Jon 4:2 So he prayed to the LORD, and said, "Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You [are] a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.
* Exodus 12:37 Then the children of Israel journeyed from
* Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children.
* Out of approximately 3M Israelites, only 2 entered the promised land-WHY?
* He wanted them to be responsible.
* He wanted them to obey
* He wanted them to work for their freedom
* He wanted them to stop complaining

**4. FREEDOM DEMANDS SELF-DISCIPLINE**

* This is because nobody is controlling you, you need to control yourself.
* Nobody tells you what to do, you should discipline yourself to do without being told.
* Since you don’t have restrictions, discipline is necessary.

**CHALLENGE:**

* Are you responsible in all aspects?
* If you are working hard, do you still have the discipline to spend time to seek the Kingdom of God?

**CONCLUSION:**

* Col 1:9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;
* Col 1:10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing [Him], **being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;**