

A Rewarding Life, Lesson 2, April 5, 2020

We'll begin by way of review

1. **First key is belief:** What you believe determines your eternal destination. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." **I Jn. 5:13**
 2. **Second key is behavior:** How you behave determines your eternal compensation. There will be rewards or the lack thereof for the way we behave here on earth. **Rev. 22:12**
 - Let me ask you something, do you believe that your choices today are directly linked to what you experience in eternity?
 - If your actions today do have the potential to radically affect your eternity, wouldn't that dramatically change what you think about your life?
1. **A diagram of your eternity according to the Word of God which is the only Authority.**



- The dash is brief and exists in only one place. It has a definite beginning and a definite ending. It stands for your whole life here
 - on earth.
 - This line represents what happens to you after your life here on earth is through. Imagine it going on forever and ever.
 - The Bible teaches plainly that whatever happens and the choices you make within the dash determine everything that happens on the line.
 - The Bible teaches plainly that even the smallest choice in the dash can result in a corresponding consequence on the line of astounding proportions.
2. **Luke 14 and focusing on one word in particular in that passage.**
- Jesus gives some unsolicited advice: vv. 10-11 with those words, all the power-players flinched.
 - Now that He has their attention, He continues v. 12 "Next time you throw one of these things, don't invite these people."

--Not missing a beat: vv. 13-14--Hear what He's saying to them: "It is possible to get something more than just little fellowship and a nice meal out of these gatherings."

- There is a blessing in doing things for those who cannot repay you
 - "Repaid at the resurrection of the just" --God will repay you for a good work after you die.
 - This contradicts what a lot of people believe today.
 - Consider what this clearly teaches us:
 1. When you do a worthy deed for someone who cannot repay you - you will be repaid by God!!
 2. When you do a worthy deed for someone who cannot repay you, your payment will come in the next life.
 - God does bless us and give us temporal rewards for choices we make while here on earth.
 - But the rewards that Jesus spoke the most about do not come in this life!!
3. **Must be careful to make the distinction between blessings and rewards in this life and in the one to come.**
- "I serve God faithfully, but my family struggles financially"

"Doesn't God notice or care?"

- God does notice and care, but He doesn't promise that work for Him now will always result in gain from Him NOW.

"In this world you will have tribulation"

- According to the Bible, the rewards Jesus wants us to know the most about do not come in this life.
- Our eternal rewards come later, but they begin by something we do today.

4. **Let's look at one important word within our passage---v. 14**

v. 14 --- Jesus uses a special compound Greek word to describe our repayment= apodidomai
apo = back
didomai = to give "To give back" = "to repay"

- It is the same word Jesus uses in Lk. 10:35 --call it accountable reimbursement
- It is the same word Jesus uses in Mk. 9:41

No deed for God will pass by overlooked or unrewarded --- Not one cup of water—not one prayer in the middle of the night!!