

Evergreen Baptist Church Men's Ministry

Study Guide for Chapter 1 in *Hazards of Being a Man* “Deflecting Responsibility”

For Tuesday, October 16, 2007, and Saturday*, October 20, 2007

(* Remember the New Saturday Start Time – 8:00 A.M. !!)

If you have the study book, read Chapter 1 and review the study questions at the end of the chapter. The following questions are designed to help you prepare for the Men's Meeting, even if you do not have the book.

1. What examples have you seen of people deflecting responsibility?

2. When you are caught in some error, what is your first response? Do you usually try to deflect responsibility, or do you tend to quickly admit your culpability? If we were to ask your family to answer this question about you, which response would they say best describes you, and why?

3. Deflecting responsibility is another way we try to justify ourselves. It takes many forms. The author pointed out the Biblical examples of Adam (Genesis 3:6-13) and King Saul (1 Samuel 15). Here are a couple of other examples to consider: Luke 18:9-14; Genesis 12:10-20, 20:1-18, 26:1-11.
 - a. How did the publican try to deflect responsibility?

 - b. How did Abraham justify his wrong actions?

 - c. How did Abraham's failure to accept responsibility affect his family?

 - d. What did these men's actions illustrate about our tendency to try to avoid taking proper responsibility for our wrong attitudes and actions?

4. What do you think of each these quotes from chapter 1?
- a. “Part of biblical manhood involves accepting responsibility.”

 - b. “We are programmed by our society to do whatever it takes to escape the consequences of our bad behavior.”

 - c. “We resent the way others respond to our behavior instead of accepting responsibility for it.”

 - d. “Acknowledging your failures and accepting responsibility for them will earn you the respect of other men, who will possibly be inspired by the courage you demonstrate.”

 - e. “Everybody sins. Our sin does not distinguish us from anyone. Our willingness to accept responsibility for our sin does distinguish us.”

 - f. “How offensive it is to God that not only do we sin, but we categorically deny responsibility for that sin!”

 - g. “We must begin to take responsibility in our relationships with our wife, our kids, and our work.”

5. Pastor Miller used King David as a positive example of how to accept responsibility for our sins (2 Samuel 11:1-12:15a). David wrote two Psalms following his confession of his sin. Read Psalms 51 and 32. Psalm 51 is a recounting a David’s prayer of confession and Psalm 32 describes the results of his forgiveness.

- a. What did Psalm 51 teach you about true confession of sin?

- b. What does it teach about the results of our confession of sin – in our own life and in the lives of others?

- c. What is to follow our confession?
- d. What does Psalm 32 teach about the results of our forgiveness after confession?
- e. What happens to us while we resist taking the responsibility for our actions?
- f. What does the Lord Himself teach us about assuming responsibility for our sins when He speaks in verses 8 and 9?

6. Pastor Miller concludes the chapter with five action items to challenge us to accept responsibility and confess any sins we may need to deal with. As you review them, apply them to King David's example. How did he put that point into action? Then use them to prayerfully examine your heart and take whatever action you need to as a result.

- a. "Confess your sins privately to the Lord."
- b. "Confess your sins publicly if necessary."
- c. "Thank the Lord for restoring your relationship with Him and others."
- d. "Ask the Lord for the strength to resist temptation to sin and cover up afterward."
- e. "Develop an accountable relationship."

7. The chapter ends with the assignment to memorize 2 Samuel 12:13: "Then David exclaimed to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the Lord!' Nathan replied to David, 'Yes, and the Lord has forgiven your sin. You are not going to die.'" How does this verse apply to you? How will memorizing it help you to avoid the hazard of deflecting responsibility?