

Sunday School Lesson

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placed herself at the right place at the right time and had been in a position to be appreciated by the king. Mordecai knew all this, but he also saw from a third perspective. God had had a hand in Estner's situation.

God's Design

We would be going contrary to the witness of the Bible to assume that everything in our life is the express design of God. God does not will that every poor man be poor and every rich man be rich. Neither the history of our personal lives nor the history of the world is the result of God's handiwork in every detail. Yet I can never be quite certain that the good and the bad in my life are not in some way God's dealing with me.

When I am well off, I am to thank God; when I am in difficulty, I am to rely upon God for courage to see it through; and in all conditions I am to remember that I do not live alone. The world does not revolve around me, and the future is not on my shoulders alone. I may be so well off that I have all sorts of responsibilities. I may be so badly off that my job is to show what it means to rely upon God in the midst of crisis and despair.

Sometimes God places us where we are for a purpose. Sometimes he uses us where we have gotten ourselves. Perhaps both situations are merely different ways God uses our freedom to guide history. Thus we can never separate God's plans from man's plans.

To be a responsible Christian does not mean to quit asking questions about such knotty problems. Christian responsibility, however, means acting when you don't know all the answers. The responsibility of which the Bible speaks is that responsibility which attempts to relieve the plight of the poor even when we don't know why they are poor, to make our prisons more concerned for the rehabilitation of criminals even when we don't know why they act the way they do, to work for peace even when we recognize that war may sometimes be the judgment of God.

Many Circles of Responsibility

"Everybody's gotta be somewhere." One of our difficulties is that we are always at many somewheres at once. At the same time we are members of a family, citizens of a community, members of the church, adherents to a certain political philosophy, and workers on a job, to mention just a few. Sometimes our loyalties do not conflict, but more frequently they do. Each circle in which we move carries certain responsibilities, and quite often these responsibilities clash.

When they do, it is no simple matter to decide which is most important.

We can easily rationalize, of course, and say that family responsibility comes before community obligations; but is this always true? Are there not times when in order to do what we

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Hospital Sick List

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- Mr. Thomas Foster
832 Rugby St.
- Mr. Richard Smith
1302 Sloan Street
- Mrs. Eula Willis
1306 Moody Rd.
- Mr. Howard Graves
Gibsonville, N. C.
- Mrs. Maggie Walker
910 Sevier St.
- Mr. Robert Anderson
400 Gorrell St.
- Mrs. Bessie Billings
307 Avalon Rd.
- Mr. Robert Jones
Route 10, City
- Mr. Willie Adams
724 Bingham St.
- Mrs. Peggy Ann Johnson
1706 Bashford Lane
- Mr. Harold Summers
609 W. Florida St.
- Mr. James Brock
922 Logan St.
- Mr. Wayne Isley
1904 Southside Blvd.
- Mrs. Janice Hursey
215 Dean St.
- Mr. John Donnell
2114 Vale Place
- Mrs. Julia Jones
789 Carver Dr.
- Mrs. Lucille Sweeney
1716 Pichard St.
- Mrs. Beulah Marshall
Summerfield, N. C.
- Mrs. Clara Barham
Summerfield, N. C.
- Mr. William Guy
1716 Spencer St.
- Mrs. Edna Burge
408 Asheboro St.
- Mrs. Joan Cobb
McLeansville, N. C.
- Mrs. Etherine Carter
Route 3, City
- Mr. Robert Kellam
4607 Swift St.
- Mrs. Inez Jones
767 Willow Ct.
- Mrs. Annie Washington
703 Gillis Ct.
- Mrs. Janie Lockhart
900 Harrington St.
- Mr. Jacob Bell
4913 Troxler Rd.
- Mrs. Edith White
Carolina Nursing Center
- Mrs. Ola Cuttino
713 Gillespie St.
- Mrs. Veronica Washington
218 Obermeyer St.
- Mrs. Fay Wood
608 Sampson St.
- Miss Janie Howie
503 S. O. Henry Blvd.
- Keith Seagraves
826 Austin St.
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2107 Wythe St.
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