



**MONDAY, November 2, 2009:**

Genesis 38:26 "So Judah acknowledged them and said, 'She has been more righteous than I, because I did not give her to Shelah my son.'"

You think television is bad or that you have trouble finding a movie worth watching - well you ought to try reading Genesis 38. It is a hotbed of sex, intrigue and passion. I'll not bore you with the details; I'll leave it up to you to see if you're up to reading this graphic chapter out of the Bible.

I mention it however to illustrate one concept that I want you to focus on this week. That concept is this: "Take responsibility for your actions."

Today's verse shows Judah with the proverbial "egg on his face." (Another expression could be "He was caught with his pants down!"). Judah was trying to take a moral highroad against his daughter-in-law when in reality he was the one in the wrong. Judah's actions throughout Genesis 38 are less than noble. He has a lot to account for and a lot to be ashamed about; but if there is any redeeming factor, it is this: Judah, when he could have dodged responsibility, chose not to. Instead, he faced the truth, covered up nothing and took responsibility for his actions.

As a result, he qualified himself and his descendents to be the tribe from which the kings of Israel would eventually come and finally even the Messiah.

As you start another week, let me encourage you to stop playing the blame game and fretting about other people's failures and weaknesses. The truth of the matter is that all of us have our "issues" (You and I included.) Instead of playing "dodge ball" with the issues, why not take responsibility for your actions, do what you can to make them right and then spend the rest of your time moving forward. You'll be surprised at the great outcome some day.

**SCRIPTURE: Revelation 5:4-6**

**TUESDAY, November 3, 2009:**

Genesis 44:32 "For your servant became surety for the lad to my father..."

To me, one of the most moving stories in all of the Bible is the story of how Joseph was reunited with his family. (Genesis 39-46)

In today's passage, we see Judah again taking responsibility. This time, he is not just taking responsibility for himself; he is taking responsibility for someone else; in this case his youngest brother (Benjamin). Judah has come a long way. Oddly enough, the chain of events that led to Judah growing in character enough to take responsibility eventually led to a son of the tribe of Judah taking responsibility for the entire human race - Jesus.

You never know what shore the consequences of your actions will wash up on someday; but the benefits can be of eternal significance.

It all starts, however, when a person has the courage to take responsibility for their actions when others would run away.

**SCRIPTURE: Genesis 44:34**

**WEDNESDAY, November 4, 2009:**

Let me remind you of a very important focus in life...

**Your goal in life is not to live a driven life but a guided life.**

It is easy to get so caught up in the rapids of life and to go at such a breakneck speed that the focus becomes about simply keeping everything going; about just keeping your head above water.

But that is not how life is meant to be lived. Intense? Sometimes. Fast-paced? Sometimes. But driven? No.

If you've ever gone white water rafting you know that on board with you is a guide. Someone to pace you, guide you and point out things of interest and beauty and to pull you out of the rapids should you get overwhelmed.

That is how it can be for the Christian as well. It requires staying in touch with the "Guide".

I wish I could say I never find myself living a driven life, but unfortunately, I do. But when I stop long enough to examine why, it is always because I have drifted away from Jesus and have allowed myself to get distracted by all the "stuff" around me.

Maybe that's where you find yourself today. Stop! Slow down and reconnect with your loving Savior...you will not regret it.

**SCRIPTURE: Matt. 11:28-30**

**THURSDAY, November 5, 2009:**

☐ "Christians cannot expect to resist the values of the unbelieving world if they devote one hour of the week to meditating on God's word and the other 167 hours to providing for the needs of their bodies and enjoying worldly entertainment."

John F. Brug, People's Bible Commentary (Psalms, Volume 1)

John F. Brug's words are not just a call to spend more time with God; *it is a call to make our life about God.*

Robert Pierce, founder of World Vision put it this way, "Let my heart be broken by the things that break the heart of God."

My call to you today is: do not make your faith just another thing you do and then check off your list. Don't just "do your devotions" today, instead, live a life devoted completely to God.

**SCRIPTURE: Exodus 34:12-14**