

**TEXT:** 2 Kings 22:3-7. See also 2 Kings 12:15.

**INTRODUCTION:** Tonight, of all things, I want to talk about accounting. Our text makes it clear that accounting is, in fact, a Biblical subject.

**DISCUSSION:**

1. **We need to be people that don't require an accounting.**

- A. We need to be faithful, dependable, reliable, trustworthy people. When someone over us gives us a job to do, or when we say we are going to do something, it should be as good as done.
- B. We need to be like the workers in our text.
- C. We need to be like Joseph. Genesis 39:5-6A.
- D. Faithful people are a blessing to other people. Proverbs 25:13.
- E. Faithful people are a blessing to themselves. 1 Timothy 1:12-13A.
- F. We need to appreciate that when we aren't faithful to people who are trusting in us, we aren't being faithful to God. Genesis 39:6B-9.

2. **We should give an accounting.**

- A. When asked. 1 Peter 3:15.
- B. Usually, even when we aren't asked.

3. **We should call for an accounting.**

- A. 1 Corinthians 14:24-25.
- B. At some point, even if they are people who've dealt faithfully in the past and we can still assume they're doing so in the present, we still need to call for an accounting.
- C. This involves far more than blatant sin. While I'm not sure I'd necessarily ask all the questions, see the back of this sheet for an illustration of calling people for an accounting (holding them accountable).

4. **We will give an accounting.**

- A. We are all accountable to God. Romans 3:19-20, 9, 23. "My greatest thought is my accountability to God" (Daniel Webster).
- B. We will all give an accounting to God. Romans 14:10B-12. It will be a detailed accounting. Matthew 12:36; Hebrews 13:17A.
- C. Will we be able to give an account? Job 31:13-14.
  - 1) We must be forgiven.
    - a. We must have obeyed God's first law of pardon: believe, confess, repent, and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins. Romans 10:9-10; Acts 2:38.
    - b. We must be obeying God's second law of pardon. Romans 8:12-13; 1 John 1:7.
  - 2) We must forgive to be forgiven. Matthew 19:23-35.

In Rebuilding Your Broken World, Gordon MacDonald suggests twenty-six questions to help develop accountability and invite feedback. If we desire to grow, we should submit our selves to a spiritual mentor and answer these questions honestly.

1. How is your relationship with God right now?
2. What have you read in the Bible in the past week?
3. What has God said to you in this reading?
4. Where do you find yourself resisting Him these days?
5. What specific things are you praying for in regard to yourself?
6. *(missing in the original, tdn)*
7. What are the specific tasks facing you right now that you consider incomplete?
8. What habits intimidate you?
9. What have you read in the secular press this week?
10. What general reading are you doing?
11. What have you done to play?
12. How are you doing with your spouse? Kids?
13. If I were to ask your spouse about your state of mind, state of spirit, state of energy level, what would the response be?
14. Are you sensing spiritual attacks from the enemy right now?
15. If Satan were to try to invalidate you as a person or as a servant of the Lord, how might he do it?
16. What is the state of your sexual perspective? Tempted? Dealing with fantasies? Entertainment?
17. Where are you financially right now? (things under control? under anxiety? in great debt?)
18. Are there any unresolved conflicts in your circle of relationships right now?
19. When was the last time you spent time with a good friend of your own gender?
20. What kind of time have you spent with anyone who is a non-Christian this month?
21. What challenges do you think you're going to face in the coming week? Month?
22. What would you say are your fears at this present time?
23. Are you sleeping well?
24. What three things are you most thankful for?
25. Do you like yourself at this point in your pilgrimage?
26. What are your greatest confusions about your relationship with God?

Paul Borthwick, Leading the Way, Navpress, 1989, pp. 171-172.