

1) **While I'm waiting I must take responsibility for every opportunity I have been given. (14-30)**

Some people use the second coming of Jesus as an excuse to coast while they are waiting for his return. Have you become careless with work, school, family, your body, or other temporal things because you didn't place the value Jesus places on those opportunities?

What value does Jesus place on the opportunities he has given you?

a) **Take inventory.**

List specific responsibilities Jesus has given you in the following categories of opportunity.

- My being (inner character development and physical body)
- My knowledge (everything you've ever been taught)
- My time (every available minute)
- My relationships (every person in your circle of influence)
- My possessions (income, savings, home, cars, etc.)

b) **Take responsibility.**

Do you compare what you have been given to what others have been given?

Do you blame God because you misinterpret his character?

Do you make excuse when people ask if you've been responsible with what you have been given?

Are you prone to think of yourself as a victim?

Are you known for being responsible with things like...

- Paying bills
- Giving back to God
- Serving others
- Keeping commitments
- Showing up on time
- Completing assignments
- Treating others with respect
- Maintaining your stuff
- Returning stuff you've borrowed

Do others have to take responsibility for you and your stuff because of your irresponsibility?

What can you do this week to take responsibility for yourself and your opportunities?

c) **Make it multiply.**

Do you consider people who make or expect a profit greedy? Are you jealous of those who have more than you?

Profit is defined as creating more than you consume. Do you think God is greedy for demanding a profit on his investment? Have you been profitable with the spiritual treasure you have been given? Where can you point to show others the multiplication in your life?

2) **While I'm waiting I must take responsibility for those who have been given the least opportunities. (31-46)**

a) **The least of these are the ones most broken by the decaying kingdoms of this world.**

Who is in your circle of influence that would be considered the "least of these"? What are you doing to take responsibility for them? What are doing to give them opportunities?

Do you intentionally go outside of your circle to influence the "least of these"? How?

Too often the church mistake great compassion for the great commission. Why does feeding and clothing and people fall short of the mission of the church?

We cannot take responsibility for everyone and everything but we must not use that as an excuse to do nothing.

How could you "do for one" what you wish you could do for everyone this week?

b) **Jesus takes personally your treatment of those he loves.**

How would it change your treatment of the most unlovely person you know if you realized Jesus takes it personally? Who is that person?

Does it often seem inefficient and ineffective to invest in the "least of these"? Explain?

Have you ever thought of quitting because you didn't get thanked? When?

c) **Caring for the least of these is the evidence that you have been counted righteous by the Greatest of All.**

How did Jesus take responsibility for your irresponsibility?

Are you spiritually hungry?

Are you spiritually thirsty?

Do you remember being a stranger to the things of God?

Have you acknowledged you were spiritually naked?

When did you acknowledge you were spiritually sick?

Have you been set free from your prison of sin?

How do the previous reflections empower you to take responsibility for those with the least?

**Additional Scripture**

- Romans 12:6-8
- Luke 16:10-12
- 1Cor. 3:5



# SMALL GROUP PULPIT CURRICULUM

- 
- 1Cor. 4:1-2
  - Proverbs 21:13
  - 1John 3:12-20
  - Jude 1:6

