

NewSpring Church – Enhanced Study Guide

Upgrade – Week 8 – Second Chances

Revelation = Responsibility

It would be crazy for us to see actions we are supposed to take, but then ignore them. Why do we do this with the things God commands us to do? He will not reveal what is next until we have obeyed.

When God lays someone on your heart, you are responsible for following through with that person. However, you are not responsible for their reaction, only your obedience.

Acts 12:12

Who was John Mark?

Acts 12:25

John Mark was offered an incredible opportunity, to minister alongside Paul and Barnabas.

Acts 13:13

John Mark quit.

Acts 15:36-41

Paul and Barnabas had a “sharp disagreement.” Barnabas wanted to reach out and bring John Mark with them, but Paul did not think it was wise because John Mark had deserted them in Pamphylia. Paul was wrong. He did not want to give John Mark a second chance.

Find out what happened to John Mark:

I Peter 5:13

Philemon 1:24

Colossians 4:10

Later on, Paul recognized his mistake: II Timothy 4:11

Four Reasons We Struggle With Believing This:

1. **Relaxation** - God calls us to take up our cross and follow Him; we must be willing to get uncomfortable.
2. **Condemnation** - If it were not for the grace of Christ, we would be the people we condemn. A second chance is not continuing to live in sin; grace gives us the opportunity to fight sin and is there in case we make mistakes.
3. **Delegation** - God lays responsibilities on our hearts for us to take care of, not to delegate to the church, group leaders, or pastor.
4. **Spiritualization** - Talking about it, is not living it. Saying things to sound spiritual is not obedience.

James 5:19-20

Get Personal: How does the sermon apply to you?

Who has God laid on your heart?

It is tempting to quit when things get difficult. *Is there an area in your life where you've given up? Or perhaps you've given up on God completely?*

Which of the four reasons do you most identify with for avoiding responsibility?

Have you been given a second chance; do you need to give someone else a second chance?

Get Real: Reflect and Confess to the Lord where you struggled.

How have you responded in the past to people the Lord has laid on your heart? What could you have done differently?

Quitting is not the same thing as surrender. Surrender entails offering our lives to God as a sacrifice. This means giving up what we want in exchange for what He wants for us. Read Romans 12:1.

God places us in specific situations for a reason. Read 1 Corinthians 7:24. We should not put off the responsibilities God calls us to by being lazy, condemning others, delegating responsibility, and sounding spiritual.

Get Moving: Where do you go from here?

Pursue those the Lord has laid on your heart. Do you need to make a phone call this week, a visit? Maybe you need to be bold with people you see everyday, like your co-workers. Have a trustworthy friend hold you accountable to these things this week.

During your time with the Lord this week, study a story from the life of King David in 2 Samuel 11-12:25. Then study Psalm 51, the psalm David wrote in response to this season of his life. Examine how David's heart and stature before the Lord changed.