

## Following Jesus a Rewarding Life – part 2

We'll begin by way of review---we saw last time that there are two keys that determine everything about our eternity.

**1. First key is belief:** What you believe determines your eternal destination. [Jn. 3:14-15](#); [Jn. 3:16](#); [Jn. 3:18](#); [Jn. 3:36](#); [Acts 16:31](#) "I'm not sure where I'd go"? Well, be sure!!  
[1 Jn. 5:12-13](#)

**2. Second key is behavior:** How you behave determines your eternal compensation. There will be rewards or the lack thereof for the way we behave here on earth. Jesus left this as one of His final thoughts in the N. T. : [Rev. 22:12](#) (salvation is His work; Jesus is speaking of rewarding our works/behavior)

--[Matt. 10:42](#) -- Let me ask you something; do you believe that your choices today are directly linked to what you experience in eternity?

--Consider what rediscovering the connection between your life now and your life in eternity could mean for you.

--If your actions today do have the potential to radically affect your eternity, wouldn't that dramatically change what you think about your life?

### **1. Take a moment to construct for you a diagram of your eternity according to the Word of God which is the only Authority.**



--The dash is brief and exists in only one place. It has a definite beginning and a definite ending. It stands for your whole life here on earth.

--This line represents what happens to you after your life here on earth is through. Imagine it going on forever and ever.

--According to the Word of God, this is an accurate representation of your life: You did not exist in the past---You were born and will exist here for a relatively short amount of time---That time will end with your death---After which you will be ushered into eternity where you will continue to exist for ever and ever.

--The Bible teaches plainly that whatever happens and the choices you make within the dash determine everything that happens on the line.

--The Bible teaches plainly that even the smallest choice in the dash can result in a corresponding consequence on the line of astounding proportions. For this reason, teaching on rewards is very important for us who are living here in the dash.

### **2. We'll be spending the rest of our time together looking primarily at a short passage in Luke 14 and focusing on one word in particular in that passage.**

--On a Sabbath day, Jesus is invited along with other prominents to a dinner. As the guests enter, Jesus watches as they jockey for position (the one who sat closest to the head was the most important person.)

--Jesus gives some unsolicited advice: [vv. 10-11](#) Those words made all the power-players flinch.

--With their attention now, He continues: [v. 12](#) "Next time you throw one of these things, don't invite these people." (Sort of an awkward moment!)

--Not missing a beat: [vv. 13-14](#) Hear what He's saying to them: "It is possible to get something more than just little fellowship and a nice meal out of these gatherings."

--There is a blessing in doing things for those who cannot repay you--warm fuzzy feeling (even the lost can experienced this, but the saved can experience something more).

- “Repaid at the resurrection of the just” “God will repay you for a good work after you die”!!
- This contradicts what a lot of people believe today.
- Contradicted what everyone believed at that dinner that day.

Consider what this clearly teaches us:

1. When you do a worthy deed for someone who cannot repay you—you will be repaid by God!
2. When you “ “ “ “ “—your payment will come in the next life.

--God does bless us and give us temporal rewards for choices we make while here on earth.

--But the rewards that Jesus spoke the most about do not come in this life!!

## **2. Must be careful to make the distinction between blessings and rewards in this life and in the one to come. To miss this difference is to set yourself up for disappointment.**

--“I serve God faithfully, but my family struggles financially” ; “I’m doing all I know to do for the Lord but I keep having all these health issues.” “**Doesn’t God notice or care?**”

--**God does notice and care but He doesn’t promise that work for Him now will always result in gain from Him NOW.** “**In this world you will have tribulation**”

--According to the Bible, the rewards Jesus wants us to know the most about do not come in this life

--Our eternal rewards come later, but they begin by something we do today.

## **There is an important word in this passage that I want us to know: v. 14**

**v. 14** --- Jesus uses a special compound Greek word to describe our repayment= apodidomai

apo = back

didomai = to give “To give back” = to repay

--Same word Jesus uses in **Lk. 10:35** --call it **accountable reimbursement**

--Same word Jesus uses in **Mk. 9:41**

## **3. Let’s conclude by taking a quick look a parable that Jesus told during the last week of His ministry.**

### **Luke 19:11-27**

--Mina was a particular weight of silver that was equivalent to 3 months wages (in today’s money: @ \$6000/mo.x3 = \$18,000)

--One servant produces 2.5 years’ worth of wages from the mina = \$180K @ \$6000/month.

--Another produces 15 months’ worth of wages from the mina = \$90K.

--One receives 10 cities and another 5 cities as payback for their labor.

--How much is a city worth? Waco’s GDP is \$16 bill., Austin is \$248 bill.; San Antonio \$242 bill.; Corpus \$46 bill.; Amarillo \$18 bill.; Jerusalem \$48 bill.; Moscow \$504 bill.; Johannesburg \$134 bill.

--The whole point of the parable is to say that the return on your investment for serving God is astounding!

--These represent the life that God has given to you to use for Him.

--Notice that what your life consists of is small in comparison to what is coming.

**I have likened to a game of monopoly: the pieces and properties** and opportunities are your life within the game, but they have very little value relative to anything outside the game.

--While you're playing the game, it matters and consumes your thoughts but whatever you are within the game will not matter once the game is over.

--No one, puts their monopoly earning or victories on their resume' or on Facebook!

--When the game of life is over, we will be judged as to how we played it. Then we will be rewarded or not be rewarded.

**No deed for God will pass by overlooked or unrewarded** --- Not one cup of water—not one prayer in the middle of the night!