

Partners In Courage, September 2012

RESPONSIBILITIES AND PRIVILEGES

Sermon by Wes Daughenbaugh

INTRODUCTION:

**** **I had a dream.** In the dream I was opening mail and received a cassette tape of a sermon labeled RESPONSIBILITIES AND PRIVILEGES. It was a thank-you note from someone who said the message had changed his or her life. The cassette was bulging—with rounded sides. I was the one who had preached it. I wondered if it could be played—because it was old and sort of swelled, yet the tape wasn't broken. I awoke with thoughts pouring into me, so I got out of bed, went to the couch, and wrote down my thoughts, believing God was speaking to me and directing me to preach on this subject. (The old cassette tape meant that I had been preaching these truths for a long time. The bulging tape means there is a lot in the Bible on this subject and God has a lot to say to us.) Yet in the dream, I could not remember ever having preached a sermon by that title. The title was deeply impressed into me—in the dream—before I awoke. I knew I was to preach a message by that title.

priv·i·lege

noun. **a.** A special advantage, immunity, permission, right, or benefit granted to or enjoyed by an individual, class, or caste.

responsibility

noun pl -ties

1. the state or position of being responsible
2. a person or thing for which one is responsible
3. The obligation to carry forward an assigned task to a successful conclusion. With responsibility goes authority to direct and take the necessary action to ensure success.
4. The obligation for the proper custody, care, and safekeeping of property or funds entrusted to the possession or supervision of an individual. See also accountability.

1. A PRIVILEGE IS A SPECIAL HONOR GIVEN BY GOD TO SOMEONE IN A CERTAIN TIME AND PLACE WHO HAS THE RESOURCES TO DO SOMETHING UNIQUE FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.

Most of us are way more in tune with our responsibilities than we are with our privileges, as God defines them.

Mary was given the “privilege” of taking the alabaster flask of pure nard and pouring it on Jesus’ head and feet. It was a unique time—a few days before his death and burial. She was in a unique place—the very house where God in human form was sitting. She had a unique resource—a whole alabaster jar of very costly perfume. She could accept this great privilege and make the most of it—or talk herself out of it. Because she thought it was her privilege and honor to do this for

Jesus she has been honored by God with the retelling of this story everywhere the gospel is preached.

Matt. 26:6-9 While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table. When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. “Why this waste?” they asked. “This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.”

Matt. 26:10-13 Aware of this, Jesus said to them, “Why are you bothering this woman? **She has done a beautiful thing to me.** The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. I tell you the truth, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”

SAME STORY, FROM JOHN’S GOSPEL. John 12:3 Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

John 12:4-6 ¶ But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, “Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.” He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

John 12:7 **“Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “[It was intended] that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial.**

John 12:8 You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

***** From the NIV translation we get the idea that somehow God had intended Mary to keep this for this very occasion. Thus—she was given a privilege, the honor of anointing Jesus for his burial. Because she accepted this opportunity and viewed it as a unique honor—and not a burden or a chore or a sacrifice—SHE DID A BEAUTIFUL THING FOR JESUS.

Later, after Jesus rose from the dead, she was given special responsibilities—anointing, ministry gifts and the like. But she is most remembered, not for the way she handled her responsibilities—but for the way she handled her unique privilege.

2. OTHER BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF GOD GIVEN PRIVILEGES

***** THE GOOD SAMARITAN WAS GIVEN A PRIVILEGE BY GOD.

This man had God-given responsibilities. He had a family to care for. He had business obligations and responsibilities. Those were ongoing. Yet he found himself in a unique time and place with the resources to do something very special—help a wounded man to live and recover. He allowed himself to feel compassion for the man—and so he used his resources to meet that man’s need. He poured the wine he was carrying into the wounds to cleanse them. He used the oil he was carrying to put on the man’s many bruises. He tore up some of his own clothing to make bandages and used the donkey he had been riding to carry the wounded man to the city. Then he used some of the money he had taken for his trip to pay for the man’s emergency care and promised to pay whatever was needed for his successful rehabilitation.

Jesus didn’t make up hypothetical stories. There really was a Samaritan who helped a wounded Jew. He didn’t know it, but he had been given a PRIVILEGE by God not only to help another human being, but to be a classic sermon illustration the Son of God could use to train all mankind how fulfill the command of God, **“Love your neighbor as yourself.”** (See Luke 10:25-37)

***** JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA John 19:38-42 Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate’s permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus’ body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in

strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

SAME STORY, FROM THE GOSPEL OF MARK. Mark 15:43-46 Joseph of Arimathea, a **prominent member of the Council**, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.

**** As a "prominent member of the Jewish Council" Joseph of Arimathea was given a unique PRIVILEGE by God to be the man who would take Jesus' body down from the cross and place it in a tomb. Nicodemus was likewise given the privilege of helping him and he is the one who supplied 75 pounds of spices. No one else of any generation, nation or race was given that PRIVILEGE. Because they considered it an HONOR and not a burden, they are recorded in Scripture. Perhaps it was the greatest thing they ever did in their lives. All their faithful handling of day-to-day responsibilities did not bring such a reward from God as this one unique opportunity to honor Jesus when his body was dead.

**** An Old Testament example from **Genesis chapter 24** tells how Abraham sent his servant to find a wife for his son Isaac. Rebekah was asked by a strange man who had a caravan of camels with him, "**Please give me a drink.**" To her it seemed like a unique opportunity to show great hospitality to these strangers so she said, "**Drink and I'll water your camels also.**" Little did she know that this trusted steward of Abraham had asked the Lord to let the chosen wife for Isaac be the girl who would say, "Drink and I'll water your camels also." In other words—that was one thing NO GIRL was going to say! Camels drank too much water. It would be regarded as way too much work—for what? For free? Yet Rebekah viewed it as an honor and volunteered to water the camels. It opened the door for her to wed Isaac and become the mother of Jacob (Israel)—the mother of a nation. Her whole future hinged on recognizing a PRIVILEGE presented to her by God, one that other girls of her generation and area would have viewed as a waste of time.

3. MOST PEOPLE ARE PRONE TO FOCUS ON RESPONSIBILITIES AND OVERLOOK GOD-GIVEN PRIVILEGES.

**** In the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus told of two other men who walked by the wounded man. Helping him certainly didn't seem like a privilege to them. Rather, it looked like helping them would actually hinder them from fulfilling their God-given responsibilities. One man was a Levite and the other was a priest. They, like the Jew who was robbed and assaulted, had left Jerusalem and were traveling down to Jericho. They had been away from their families, doing their priestly duties at the temple and were hurrying home to be with their families and take care of those responsibilities.

Luke 10:31-32 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

**** Either one could have been used by Jesus as the hero of his story. Either one could have become the model example of what it means to love your neighbor as yourself. But it didn't look like a special honor prepared by God for them. They saw it as a burden, a risk, a hindrance, a danger, an inconvenience, an expense—but certainly not as a PRIVILEGE—a unique and special honor given just to them. You see, it WAS a privilege to the priest. He COULD have been the first responder. He was in a position to give aid first. Similarly, the Levite was in the second position to give aid. But they didn't ACCEPT their privilege or see it as such. So the third man got to have the honor, the unique privilege to be used by the Son of God as a model for human relations.

4. REJECTED RESPONSIBILITIES AND REJECTED PRIVILEGES BOTH RESULT IN JUDGMENT.

**** In the parable of the talents Jesus tells of a man who divided his property among servants. To one he gave five talents, to one two talents, and to one just one talent. According to Wikipedia, a Talent was a sum of silver equal to nine man-years of work. Two of these men handled their responsibilities well. The man who was given five talents gained five more as he put the money to work. The man who was given two talents gained two more. Both were congratulated by the Master and told, **“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!”** (Matthew 25:21).

But the man who had been given one talent just buried it and finally dug it up and gave it back to the Master upon his return. He was thus irresponsible and was rejected as a servant.

Matt. 25:24-25 “Then the man who had received the one talent came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

Matt. 25:26-27 **“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.**

Matt. 25:28-30 “Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

**** Another example of rejected responsibility resulting in judgment is where Paul wrote, **“If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever”** (1 Tim. 5:8).

***** Now notice that right after Jesus warns that rejected responsibility results in judgment he goes on to say that rejected PRIVILEGES will also result in judgment! Eternal Judgment, at that!

Matt. 25:41-43 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

Matt. 25:44 “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

Matt. 25:45 **“He will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’**

Matt. 25:46 “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

**** You see, helping someone that is hungry is NOT your responsibility if they are not your relatives. Helping them may be your privilege.

**** What do we excuse ourselves with? The words, “It’s NOT my responsibility.” No—it’s NOT your responsibility to care for orphans unless you’ve been given that ministry by God and you run an orphanage. Then—it’s your responsibility. But to feed an orphan, clothe one, or pay for the education of one—that’s a PRIVILEGE.

Those who will go away into eternal torment are people who made excuses with the very words, **“THAT’S NOT MY RESPONSIBILITY.”**

**** Are you getting this? It wasn’t the Good Samaritan’s responsibility to help the wounded man. His responsibility was taking care of his wife and children. It was his PRIVILEGE to be in the right place at the right time with the right resources and receive the

honor of becoming a classic sermon illustration for Jesus and the model of how to obey the second greatest commandment!

5. GREAT ETERNAL REWARDS COME TO THOSE WHO TAKE SERIOUSLY BOTH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND THEIR GOD-GIVEN PRIVILEGES.

**** Here's a portion of scripture where Jesus talks about the necessity of being responsible—showing that those who are responsible servants will be greatly rewarded while the those who shirk responsibility will be judged harshly.

Luke 12:35-40 “Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

Luke 12:41 Peter asked, “Lord, are you telling this parable to us, or to everyone?”

Luke 12:42-46 **The Lord answered, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.** But suppose the servant says to himself, ‘My master is taking a long time in coming,’ and he then begins to beat the menservants and maidservants and to eat and drink and get drunk. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.

Luke 12:47-48 “That servant who knows his master’s will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows. But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

THAT WHOLE PORTION IS ABOUT THE NECESSITY OF FAITHFULLY BEARING RESPONSIBILITIES THAT GOD GIVES US.

**** In Matthew 25 we are reminded that those who considered it a PRIVILEGE to help the poor, the hurting and the suffering were also greatly rewarded.

Matt. 25:34-36 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

Matt. 25:37-39 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

Matt. 25:40 “The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’

6. TWO PERSONAL EXAMPLES

Because I've been given an anointing to teach God's word, I must keep teaching and bear that responsibility faithfully. Like Paul, I can say, 1Cor. 9:16 **For though I preach the gospel, I have**

nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

A life well lived is one where a person can say, “I faithfully bore the responsibility God gave me. Paul wrote, **“By the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ (Romans 15:19).**”

**** While focused on being responsible is good—it is not enough. For example, I’ve accepted regular responsibility for providing monthly rent money to two pastors in Kenya—both have suffered extreme persecution for their faith. I’ve accepted responsibility to raise money so that they can educate their children and the orphans they have adopted as their own children.

One day I got an email from Pastor Rose Wafula. She said she was going to adopt a little girl whose parents died in a tragic car accident. The little girl was badly burned on her legs. Pastor Rose emailed me one day to say that the little girl needed additional medical care and that the bill was \$480 and that she couldn’t get out of the hospital with her until the bill was paid.

I said to myself, “I ALREADY HAVE ENOUGH RESPONSIBILITIES. I’m struggling to keep up with them. I have not promised to pay the bills for this little girl. That is Pastor Rose’s responsibility. Let her figure out a way to pay for it in her own culture.”

However, two months went by and Pastor Rose had to remain in the hospital with that little girl. She could not leave her alone because in Kenya, if you don’t pay your bill, you aren’t fed and your bed may be snatched from under you. So the little girl had to be guarded.

Finally I couldn’t stand it anymore. I emailed Pastor Rose and asked for the email address for the doctor there. I wrote to him and said, “I have no money but I’d like to help Pastor Rose get this little girl out of the hospital. If you will give me terms, I will pay this bill. I’m just asking that you trust me and that you release her now. I will make payments until this is cleared.”

**** **The doctor agreed. He let them go—without receiving a PENNY from me.** One day I got an email from a man in Wyoming with whom I had stayed about 12 years ago when I preached in his area. He wanted to order some of my books. In an email to him I told him about this little girl’s situation. He emailed back to say he’d send money for the books I’d shipped as well as enough to pay for the little girl’s medical bill. He sent \$50 for the books and \$450 for the medical bill.

I sent the \$450 to Rose, thinking that was the total and the doctor graciously discounted the bill from \$480 to \$450 and said it was paid in full.

**** **Then that African doctor emailed to say he wanted to become a Christian.** I emailed back, explaining how that is done. Last Sunday both he and his wife attended Pastor Rose’s church and gave their hearts to Christ!

***** The little girl wasn’t my RESPONSIBILITY. She was Pastor Rose’s responsibility. But she was my PRIVILEGE. I was in a unique position to find a donor to pay for her need. It was my privilege to promise to pay, then pray for a miracle, drive to Wal-Mart to send the money gram, and witness to the good doctor by email.

***** **HERE’S ANOTHER FRESH EXAMPLE:** For a long time a pastor named Benard Omayio asked me to help him because he cared for 20 orphans. I declined because my responsibilities to other pastors and to the widow of Dr. Martin were big enough to take up all the sponsors I had. But finally I started helping him with food for the 20 orphans when he said the adults in his church had to fast two days a week to have food for these kids. We started sending \$100 every now and then for large sacks of maize, sugar and cooking fat.

We also bought Bibles for the 40 adults in his church. And we also provided \$250 for seed and fertilizer so they could plant a maize crop. But one day he emailed to say his wife was going to die unless she had immediate surgery. She was pregnant and due to give birth in three weeks. The doctor said she was in bad shape. They required over \$800 to do the surgery or they would let her die.

**** **This wasn't my RESPONSIBILITY—but I treated it as a PRIVILEGE.** I emailed that lady doctor, said I was sending \$300 and asked her to do the surgery and trust me for the rest. She did this—and the mother and baby were saved. They named the baby Wes Donald. (My name is Donald Wesley and I go by Wes). With God's help and that of my partners I was able to pay off the operation and the cost of blood transfusion and medicine.

**** The lady doctor was elated and turned powerfully to the Lord. She attended pastor Benard's church and gave a great testimony of how God had used these events had revitalized her faith. That very day her husband was involved in a terrible car wreck and had to have brain surgery to save his life. They required her to pay \$1500 up front. She had \$500 and borrowed \$500 from her mother. I could have said, "THIS IS NOT MY RESPONSIBILITY" but somehow, I believed God would want me to help this lady doctor who had helped us save a pastor's wife and baby. I loaned her \$500 from a rental account I use to pay the mortgage on a duplex. Her husband had the surgery but while they attended to his head injuries they discovered he also had a brain tumor. This required an additional \$500.

I had no money and felt I could not put any more pressure on my partners. I told Dr. Beatrice I absolutely could not give any more. Several days went by and her husband lapsed into a coma. He would die soon. Finally I said, "Give me the email of your doctor." This doctor said if I promised to pay in three days he would do the surgery but that 30 days to pay was "out of the question."

Knowing the man's life was on the line, I wrote one more email. In that email I told the doctor that it seemed illogical to me to let a man die when he had the ability and opportunity to save his life—and make money in the process. All he needed to do was trust a fellow doctor—a noble lady, and a preacher in America who has a reputation of helping native pastors. I also said that Jesus taught, "**Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.**" I asked what he would want the lady doctor to do for him if the roles were reversed and his wife as in critical condition.

That email was used of God and he was so convicted he immediately did the surgery and also paid for the medicine and blood transfusion himself! Within a week I paid off that additional \$500. Dr. Beatrice's husband's life was saved. He was recovering and talking. He said he wanted to be born again and become a true Christian. (God gave that doctor a unique "privilege to save a life.)

That next Sunday Dr. Beatrice was baptized in the Holy Spirit in Pastor Benard's little church that meets under a tree! She then led her husband to Christ!

**** It's a great story, and all true. But you see, NONE OF IT WAS MY RESPONSIBILITY. It was all a PRIVILEGE. How easily I could have passed by on the other side of the road, not recognizing the honor God was giving me to be the catalyst to see a doctor and her mate turn powerfully to Christ.

7. BOTH RESPONSIBILITIES AND PRIVILIGES ARE BEAUTIFUL

****To accept a responsibility is going to require faithfulness, diligence, vigilance and many other virtues. To accept a privilege is going to require compassion, generosity, unselfishness, and many other virtues.

What a beautiful thing to accept responsibility to be a Sunday School Teacher. Faithfully fulfilling that responsibility will bring great reward. Matt. 5:19 **Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.**

****What a beautiful thing to accept the privilege of buying a Bible for a pastor in Uganda or a bicycle for a pastor in India so that they can teach others and faithfully bear their responsibilities.

It was a beautiful thing the woman did for Christ to pour pure nard upon him—but it was done only once, at great cost. What a beautiful thing it was for the Apostle Paul to faithfully bear

responsibility for teaching, writing letters to the churches, appointing elders in every town with fasting and prayer and training up young men in the ministry—a lifetime of fulfilling an apostolic call.

**** Please remember, you may see “privileges” but not be “given” those privileges because you don’t have the resources like an alabaster flask of Nard or a newly cut tomb in rock. God won’t give you every privilege in the world. So be sensitive to His guidance.

**** Because of the two back to back life and death situations—surgeries—to save Pastor Benard’s wife and baby and then save Dr. Beatrice’s own husband—my INTERNATIONAL FUND IS DRAINED.

Meanwhile, our ministry had taken on a RESPONSIBILITY to help Pastor Musamali and Pastor Rose educate their children. We’ve been paying the school tuition for them for over a year. **I need more partners who will accept the responsibility of supporting an orphan for \$40 a month.** That’s a beautiful responsibility to accept. A few might accept the privilege of giving a one-time gift for the education fees of the orphans we support. This would help us catch up.

There are two PRIVILIGES I’d especially like you to pray about. One is the burial of Dr. Martin’s youngest son. He was snake bit a month ago and his little body remains in the mortuary, awaiting funds for burial, while his bereaved mother prays that God will make a way to bury her son. The mortuary has agreed to do his funeral if I will send \$800. The total cost is nearly \$1300 but the rest could be made in payments. I’ve received one \$250 gift for this so far.

Another privilege will be to pay or pay in part for cancer surgery for widow Joan. In the year since she accepted Christ she has lost a tubule pregnancy (a boy), been stabbed herself, lost her oldest boy to a stabbing, her youngest to snake bite, and her husband to a terrible car wreck. She needs cancer surgery. I asked Dr. Beatrice if she knew a doctor who might give us terms and a discount. I’ve been in contact with one such doctor.

If you have the resources and you can do something to help us with any of these needs, please mark INTERNATIONAL on your check. **Any check that isn’t designated as International will be used to pay General Fund bills.** If someone marks USE AS NEEDED it will go to General fund and be used there as needed. If anyone marks International it will be put in that fund and be used as needed—100% for needs in Africa and India.

CLOSING: When you read the Bible and see people doing beautiful things for the glory of God, ask yourself, “Were they faithfully bearing responsibility or were they recognizing a unique opportunity, a one time privilege to feed the hungry, visit the sick, or clothe the naked?”

What exactly ARE your God given responsibilities? Are you being faithful? Will the master commend you and say, “Well done. You have been faithful in a few things, I will make you master of many things”?

What “privileges have been given by God to you in the past? It was a privilege to originally raise \$10,000 to save Pastor Musamali from death from the bite of a black mamba and from brain infection resulting from that first surgery. He emailed recently to say that 65 people were converted in a recent crusade. It has been a responsibility to raise \$100 a month for his rent for nearly three years. Do you see the beauty of each and the differences between them?

My prayer for you: Dear Lord, please give my friends the discernment, love and wisdom to know what their responsibilities are and what they are not. Likewise, give them the discernment, love and wisdom to know what special privileges you have prepared for them so that they do not walk by them saying, ‘That’s not my responsibility.’ Deliver all my friends from any false responsibility or false guilt. You said of the woman who poured the perfume upon you, **“She did what she could”** (Mark 14:8). Help us to do what we can without false guilt for what we cannot do. In Jesus name. Amen. I LOVE YOU. GOD BLESS YOU.