

DISCUSSION NOTES

FEBRUARY 16, 2019

Start by praying and asking for God's help as you seek to grow as authentic followers of Jesus.

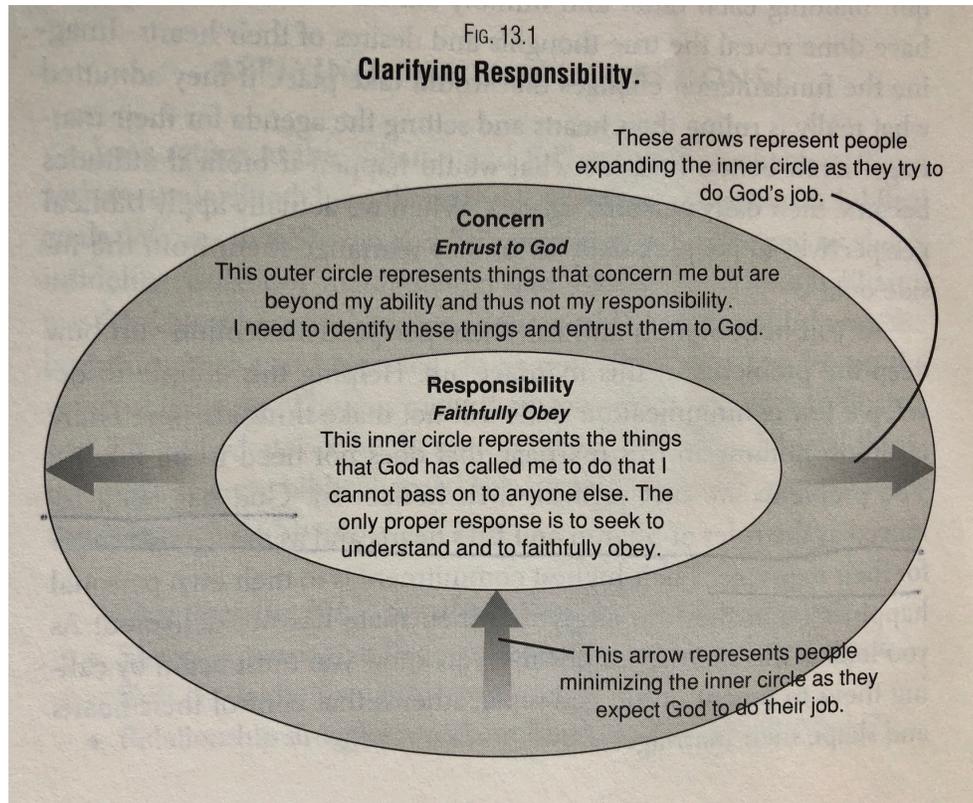
LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

1. Read 1 Samuel 16:14-23. Make 5-7 observations. Where is God in the passage? What action takes place? What is troubling to you? What is encouraging to you? What stands out most to you?
2. This passage speaks of a "harmful spirit from God" that comes upon King Saul. Does this seem troublesome to you? We know from the rest of Scripture that God is always good and could never be the cause of evil, so how are we to understand this passage?
3. In verse 18, how is David described? What stands out to you about his reputation?
4. In the first section of 1 Samuel 16, just before these verses, David was anointed as the future King of Israel. But when they went to look for David, where was he found (vs. 19)? Then, verse 21 tells us that this future King entered in to "service" to King Saul. What can we infer about David's character from these facts?

LIVING IT OUT

5. Does it surprise you that David is chosen as the future king but immediately placed in roles as a servant, first to the sheep and then to King Saul? What does this say about God's plans and God's preparation of his leaders?
6. How does it encourage you to know that God raises up everyday people to be used for his purposes?
7. In what ways is God using your mundane and ordinary "sheep-chasing" days to shape you?
8. On the next page is an exercise from Paul Tripp's book, *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands*. Take several minutes to talk through the diagram which explores our responsibility (things that are important to me that I can change) and our concern (things that are important to me that I can NOT change).

CIRCLES OF RESPONSIBILITY AND CONCERN



Discuss the diagram above, and then consider the following questions:

- Where am I shirking personal responsibility in hopes that God or someone else will do my job?
 - Where am I taking concerns upon myself and trying to make them my responsibility?
 - What things in my life belong in the circle of concern? Where do I need to trust God with my life?
 - What things belong in my circle of responsibility? Where do I need to obey God in my life?
 - Do I have anything in my life which I have placed in the wrong circle?
9. What is one you can further reflect on these things and practice living in light of this diagram this week?

The above diagram was taken from Paul Tripp, *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands*, page 250.