

## **11 10 2011 RESPONSIBILITY**

Some of us have had wonderful parents and a terrific upbringing. Others are not so fortunate. All of us who live to become adults have our own lives to live, accepting the RESPONSIBILITY that comes with it. I'm Ken Trahan & Welcome to Walking in the Word with Williams Blvd. Baptist Church.

Accepting RESPONSIBILITY is a big part of our lives. Some of us do so willingly. Others do not, passing the buck to others, blaming everyone else but themselves for the malaise they find themselves in.

My father was the son of a janitor. He had to work hard to get an education, deprived of the nicer things in life. He did so, became a very successful accountant & he provided an awesome life for me and my siblings.

My mother came from a poor household with a distant father who died when she was a teenager and with a mother who was self-centered, deaf & detached. She overcame this to be the most loving, caring mother a child could ever want. Both have gone on to be with the Lord & I yearn to see them again & believe I will.

Even though they taught me well & provided well for me, it is my RESPONSIBILITY to live my life the right way, in God's presence, working hard, being honest, being a good husband & father, accepting the RESPONSIBILITY of the call to ministry.

Jotham did right in the sight of the Lord. Jotham did not follow the path of Uzziah, his father. Jotham fortified Judah by building cities & walls & towers. They served as a preventative measure against possible hostile enemies attacking Judah.

Jotham fought the Ammonites & defeated them. The Word tells us that he prepared his ways before the Lord his God. Jotham did all of this in an atmosphere & culture which had departed from the Lord's will & ways. He set things right.

Jotham wasn't perfect. He had failures but he stayed the course, unlike his father. Uzziah started well, influenced by Zechariah, doing right in the sight of the Lord.

Unfortunately, Uzziah's pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to God & entered the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense as detailed in 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 26:15-16. He was struck with leprosy.

As we learn in 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 27, Jotham reigned for 16 years in Jerusalem. Not much is said about him but we know that he was solid.

We learn so much from our parents. If we had a good example to learn from, we should utilize that throughout our lives. I got my work ethic from my father. I got my competitive nature from dad. I got my sensitivity & caring nature from mom.

On the other hand, if our parents drank alcohol, chances are that we ended up doing so. If our parents smoked, chances are that we did so. If our parents were mean to each other, we may copy that behavior in our relationships.

That does not have to be a life-long behavior. We must learn from our experiences. I never smoked. I did drink—heavily at times. I prayed about it and grew past that. Haven't touched a drop of alcohol since 1995. Don't miss it. Don't need it.

We do not need to subscribe to “monkey see, monkey do” when it comes to matters of how we live our lives. It is our RESPONSIBILITY to live proper, to do right in the sight of the Lord.

By accepting RESPONSIBILITY, we understand that our failures are ours. We must work hard to overcome them. We must work hard to serve Jesus.

All throughout Scripture, brutal tyrants gave way to meeker sons to ran kingdoms, who did right in the sight of the Lord regardless of what example had been set for them. Whether we came from underprivileged or a poverty-stricken background or came from loving, well-to-do homes, our lives are ultimately our own RESPONSIBILITY. Start accepting your RESPONSIBILITY in greater fashion today!

For a text copy, e-mail me @ [kentrahan@aol.com](mailto:kentrahan@aol.com) & ask for RESPONSIBILITY. For Pastor Tim Williams, thanks for joining us. I'm Ken Trahan. God bless you!

