

# Overcoming Mediocrity

Randy Clark 4Q 2006

Assignment for tonight:

1. Memorize 2 Cor 10:3-5
2. Outline 2 Cor chapters 4-5.
3. Bring two passages that relate to tonight's topic: Accountability & Responsibility

Thought for tonight:

"Life unexamined is not worth living" --Plato

## Accountability & Responsibility

**Accountability:** Answering the hard questions.

**Responsibility:** Someone is watching.

Bob Richards - Olympic Gold Medalist, Pole Vault '52 & '56

- He was one of my dad's heroes...became one of mine.
- You're probably a hero to someone.
- If you are, then you're unique, we respect you.
- It might be a work, in the neighborhood, at the gym, in your profession.
- If you knew how they (we) felt, I'm convinced that you'd be more careful.
- And I'm certain that if you are one of those people (someone's hero) that you're not like the majority.

## Essential Characteristics

"Opening one's life to a few carefully selected, trusted, loyal confidants who speak the truth."

- **Vulnerability:** capable of being wounded, can be shown to be wrong and even admit it before being confronted.
- **Teachability:** a willingness to learn, being quick to hear and respond to reproof — open to counsel.
- **Availability:** accessible, able to be interrupted.

- **Honesty:** committed to truth, regardless of how it hurts, or how difficult or humiliating.

## Bible Speaks of Accountability

Accountable to God - Mt 12:35-36; Rom 14:10-12

Accountable to elders/leaders - Heb 13:17; 1 Cor 16:13-16

Accountable to one another - Rom 15:1-2, 14; Gal 5:25; 6:2

## Personal Life Accountabilities

### Without accountability,

- The powerful man/woman becomes a tyrant.
- The wealthy will become overbearing.
- A marriage will become lopsided and unbearable.
- Children and parents will fail.
- Young adults on their own for the first time will have too much privacy and free time.

## Biblical Examples

- Lot was accountable to Abraham...until he moved to Sodom and Gomorrah. Gen 13, 19
- Joseph was accountable to Potiphar, Gen 39
- Saul was accountable to Samuel, 1 Sam 13
- David was accountable to Nathan, 2 Sam 12
- Nehemiah was accountable to King Artaxerxes, Neh 1-2
- Daniel was accountable to all the kings he served under, Dan 1-6
  
- Christ was accountable to His Father.
- Disciples to Christ
- Disciples to one another
- Mark to Paul and Barnabas
- Paul and Barnabas to one another and the church at Antioch
- Timothy to Paul
- Onesimus to Philemon

## Practical Advantages - When we are regularly accountable,

1. We are less likely to fall into a trap. Prov 13:10, 14, 18, 20; 15:31-33
2. We are more likely to see the whole picture. Prov 27:17
3. We are not likely to get away with sinful and unwise actions. Prov 27:6

## Requires An Honest Self-Evaluation

- **Can you name one or more people outside your family to whom you have made yourself regularly accountable?**
- **Are you aware of the dangers of unaccountability?**
- **When was the last time you gave an account for the “private areas” of your life to someone outside your family?**

**Don't Avoid the Hard Questions !!**