

## Blame Game

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic  
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The first blame game happened with Adam and Eve. The serpent tempted Eve to eat the forbidden fruit. Subsequently, she tempted Adam. Adam blamed Eve and she blamed the snake (Genesis 3). Whose fault was it? It was their own willingness driven by their fleshy desires. We also took this nature from Adam & Eve. We need to stop holding on to a victim mentality and looking for someone to blame. There are always consequences to our actions. We need to ask the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us. Jesus took upon Himself the sin of the world and carried it away. Once we acknowledge our sin, we no longer have to carry the weight of our guilt.

### 1. Why were Adam and Eve responsible?

- 1.1. They knew the rules (Gen. 2:16-17).
- 1.2. They knew the consequences. They would die and there would be sin (Gen. 2:17).
- 1.3. They had a choice (Gen. 3:6).

### 2. The Bible shows many examples of what happens when people blame others:

- 2.1. Cain murdered Abel because of jealousy, (Gen. 4:9). He was banished from the soil.
- 2.2. Moses was blamed by the Israelites for taking them away from Egypt.
- 2.3. Abraham and Sarai blamed one another after she told him to have a relationship with her slave, who bore a son (Gen. 16).
- 2.4. Esau blamed Jacob for taking his birthright (Gen. 27:36).
- 2.5. In Moses' absence, Aaron told everyone to remove all their jewels; and they started blaming each other.
- 2.6. David slept with a woman and she became pregnant (2 Sam. 11: 2-5); he planned her husband's death. The Lord was displeased with David.
- 2.7. Saul disobeyed God in his desire to please the people and his kingdom was taken from him (1Sam. 15:7-19). The consequences of disobedience are great.

### 3. How does Jesus respond to a victim mentality?

- 3.1. The Lord told the invalid man at the pool "Rise, pick up your mat and walk" (Jn.5:8 ). Jesus tested his will to get well. He was infirmed but he did not try to help himself; instead, he blamed other people, "no one brings me to the pool."
- 3.2. The Lord wants us to be victorious. He wants us to make an effort to pick up our mats and do what is right. We need to throw our old life, surrender everything to Him, and become new persons (2Cor. 5:17). We need to get up, walk in the spirit and the life the Lord has offered us (Jn. 10:10)

### 4. There are 3 areas where faith is our personal responsibility:

- 4.1. Faith of standing for oneself
- 4.2. Faith of standing for another
- 4.3. Faith of one given the gift of healing

### 5. The 3 things that we cannot blame others for

- 5.1. Personal responsibility. On judgement day, we will receive what will be due to us when we stand before God (Gal. 6:7-8).
- 5.2. Our spirituality. Let us seek ways to glorify and to love God and to bring salvation to the lost.
- 5.3. Our sins. Let us not blame God (James 1:13-16). The enemy is satan, who seeks to steal and destroy. There are always consequences to our actions, but God teaches us to pray, "lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil" (Mt. 6:13).

### Conclusion:

We will always be tested because in this life, a strong, unshakeable faith does not come with a life of comfort. Let us pray that our faith will not fail. Let us set aside a time to pray and praise God and to learn to trust Him, so that we can be conquerors against our struggles and challenges.

### Reflection:

1. What kind of "mat" (anxieties, doubts) are you lying on?
2. What is paralyzing and making you crippled?

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