

BLAME SHIFTERS

Ezekiel 18:1–4 (NKJV)

One of the great hindrances to men & their calling is blame shifting... This instinctive response will hinder you from God's will. In the passage we are going to look at, God speaks to his prophet that blame shifting must stop in you if you are going to reach your full potential.

Ezekiel 18:1–4 (NKJV) The word of the Lord came to me again, saying, ²“What do you mean when you use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying: ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, And the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³“As I live,” says the Lord God, “you shall no longer use this proverb in Israel. ⁴“Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die.

I BLAME SHIFTING:

A- In our passage God is confronting a mindset & life principle- **V2** What do you mean when you use this proverb...

1. The idea is: What I do is not my fault... *I do what I do, because someone else did-*

a. That is blame shifting... God is not into this life approach; **V3** “As I live,” says the Lord God, “you shall no longer use this proverb.

2. This is not reality! That everything wrong/negative/addiction/bad habit is because of someone else...

a. What they did, what they said, what they didn't do, what they didn't say-

B- So; How do we identify blame shifting?

1. Psychology says: *A blame shifter has a difficult time taking responsibility for their problems. They go as far as necessary to attribute blame for their circumstances to anyone else, even if it may sound somewhat conspiratorial.*

a. A blame shifter goes to great lengths to evade any kind of responsibility.

2. Blame shifters say things like; “*If you wouldn't have said, then I wouldn't have called you*” ... “*If you weren't always nagging me then I wouldn't have cheated on you (looked at porn)*” ... “*If it wasn't so strict I wouldn't want to do this*”

3. Blame shifting is DANGEROUS living... It is a deceptive life approach-

a. It will hurt your salvation/marriage/ministry/calling.

II THE COST OF BLAME SHIFTING:

A- This will cost you in life: **V4** (God says) The soul who sins shall die...

1. This is not an acceptable reason to God for sin/carnality/wrong doing/marital conflict/relational conflict/drama-

a. Because you are responsible for YOU!

2. This will cost you Credibility: People don't appreciate working with/living with/serving with a blame shifter-

a. Once this is discovered you will begin to lose credibility... King Ahab lost credibility because he blamed Micaiah for speaking truth... Jehoshaphat saw right through it...

3. This will cost you Dominion: When Adam & Eve sinned, Adam blamed the wife God gave him... But it still cost

4. It will cost you Ministry: Saul & the “sacrificial goats”... The Kingdom was ripped from him-

5. It will cost you Eternity: Text: The soul who sins shall die...

III REJECTING BLAME SHIFTING:

A- This is something; If you are going to do a work for God/Reach greater ministry/have greater fruitfulness/Blessed relationships... You must deal with blame shifting!

1. You must Identify it: Where do you tend to shift the blame? For some its Work/Marriage/Addictions/Ministry...

a. You have to hear the language of it... Ask God: **Psalms 139:23–24** Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; ²⁴ And see if *there is any* wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

2. Repent of It: **V3** you shall no longer use this proverb... Take responsibility for YOUR actions/sin/wrongs-

a. **Luke 15:21** And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

3. Learn how to “Take an L”... There have been times in my life where I took the blame... Times where it was HEALTHY for me to do that...

a. **Matthew 5:11–12** NCV “People will insult you and hurt you. They will lie and say all kinds of evil things about you because you follow me. But when they do, you will be blessed. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because you have a great reward waiting for you in heaven. People did the same evil things to the prophets who lived before you