An Honest Horse Thief

Max Dawson · Series: **Meeting with Max Dawson**

INTRODUCTION

- The word of God puts us on trial every time we read it.
- So much of the word of God is so easy to understand that you have to have help to misunderstand it.
- There's another tragic parallel in the spiritual world, and that is one of personal accountability, personal responsibility.

1 Victimization: The Victim Religion

Genesis 3:11–12; Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:22

- If there was a new religion, we could call it the victim religion.
- We love this idea of being victims because when we're being victims of other people, then we can say to everybody, it's not my fault.
- Adam said, The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.
- If Adam is not responsible for his own actions, then God can't punish him.
- If I'm a victim, I don't need a Savior. I don't have responsibility to God.
- The whole gospel can be changed if we can sell this business of victimization.

2 The Bible Principle of Accountability

Galatians 6:7–8; Romans 14:11–12; 2 Corinthians 5:10

- Do not be deceived. God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that will he also reap.
- When you do wrong, you ought to expect consequences.
- Folks, the choices we make determine the outcome of a thing.
- So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God.
- We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body.
- When we sin, we ought to accept the responsibility for our own actions.

3 Examination: Moral Issues

- It's okay to talk about the horse thief or the smoker. But what about examining yourself?
- So Bob, he was victimized by General Motors, General Motors didn't pay him enough, and so he was justified in stealing from his employer. Is that the deal?
- So Jessica was victimized. She was a victim of her friends. It wasn't her fault.

4 Worship Issues

- He didn't go to church on Sunday morning because well he was the victim of circumstances.

- We say that like we're victims of the alarm clock.
- It's often the case that we didn't really make concrete plans to be on time in the first place.

5 Family Issues

Ephesians 5:25; Ephesians 5:22–24; Ephesians 5:33

- Sometimes parents are unfair. But you still have to obey your parents. There's no excuse for disobedience.
- Husbands love your wives as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it.
- Every man is going to be frustrated with his wife sooner or later, and it is no excuse for not loving your wife.
- Each of these cases attempts to avoid personal accountability and responsibility.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Don't try to play games with God. Don't try to fool God because it will not work.**

MY NOTES