

Getting Past Blame

I recently received the following in an e-mail. “Did you catch the news report about the woman who sued the weatherman? A woman heard a local weatherman predict fair skies and warm weather. She took him at his word and dressed accordingly. Predictably, the forecast proved erroneous. The sky opened, the rain fell and the temperature dropped dramatically. As a result of dressing as the weatherman’s prediction indicated, the woman caught the flu, missed four days of work and income. She sued the weatherman and the station for damages as well as emotional distress!”

Fewer and fewer people accept responsibility for anything these days. It is easier and easier to blame others for troubles, mistakes, and failures. While the case of the woman and the weatherman is extreme, it illustrates a problem that needs addressing. There is comfort in blaming others because it removes the heat and the attention from you. Blaming shifts responsibility away from me toward you. Blaming someone for a problem seems to make one look better in the eyes of those who watch. However, in most cases, blaming “boomerangs”. When one refuses responsibility for his life, actions, work, ethics, health and countless other areas, he demonstrates irresponsibility. Irresponsibility can be hidden only so long.

Before accepting an assignment or agreeing to do something, arrive at a full understanding of your role, functions and accountabilities. Once you sign on, commit to follow through. Adopt a “no excuses” policy when it comes to performance. Step up to your part of the task and take it on. Work hard. Give credit to others as you succeed. Freely and openly accept criticism and responsibility for things that may go wrong. Be honest with yourself, your peers, and your superiors. If you make a mistake, own it immediately. If you need more information, admit it quickly. Do not play games. Recognize the value of humility. Take care of your business and leave the business of others alone. Chances are you have more than enough on your own plate! Ask for help when you need it and freely give it to others when they ask for it. Regard yourself as a team player rather than an island.

“So Then, each of us will give an account of himself to God” (Romans 14:12)

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