

POINT OF IMPACT



Unless we understand the responsibilities of the firstborn for the welfare of his family, extended family, and tribe, we won't understand the purpose behind the principle. Receiving the birthright of a double portion was in no way a means for personal gain, but rather for preservation and, if necessary, provision for the entire family and tribe. *With that in mind, does your own understanding and view of the rights and double portion given to the firstborn change? If so, in what way?*

READ Exodus 4:22, Isaiah 42:5-7, and Isaiah 49:5-6. *As we understand the purpose behind the rights of the firstborn, what does that say about the role God intended for Israel in bringing His salvation to all nations?*

DAY 2

Using the **PICTURE IT** Bible study method, **READ** Matthew 20:1-16. **IMAGINE** you're the landowner hiring workers for the day. *What's your attitude toward the workers arriving first thing in the morning? What's your attitude toward the workers who arrive around the "third hour?" What about the workers at the "eleventh hour?" How is the landowner's attitude described in the Scriptures? Is this different from how you'd respond? Would you have responded in the same way the landowner did? Why? Why not?*

IMAGINE you're one of the workers. **THINK** about how thankful you'd be for the opportunity to work a full day. *What would your attitude be like? Would your perspective and attitude change when other workers received the same wage as you yet worked fewer hours? Why? Why not?*

PICTURE yourself as one not hired to work that day. **IMAGINE** knowing your family would most likely not eat because you didn't work. *How would your attitude change when you're finally hired to work? As you picture yourself as each character in this parable, how does it change your view of the landowner's actions? The Workers? To whom do you relate to the most in this story? Why? How does the principle of the firstborn apply to the landowner's dealings with each of the workers?*

DAY 3

READ Luke 16:10-11. A modern application of the **PRINCIPLE OF THE FIRSTBORN** is to use your **influence, resources, authority, and position** entrusted to you, for the common good and **NOT** exclusively for yourself.

PRAY: *Father, You've entrusted me with more than I could ever hope for or understand. Thank you. Forgive me for the times I misuse and even overlook the blessings and responsibilities given me. Open my eyes to see those things entrusted to me. May I be trustworthy and faithful in how I steward them.* In your journal, answer the questions below. Be specific.

With whom do I have influence?

What resources do I have?

(think about this... Our resources include much more than our time and money!)

Where and/or with whom am I in a place of authority?

Which positions of power and/or leadership do I hold?

In my family? My community? My job? My church?

DAY 4

READ Colossians 1:15, Matthew 20:25-28, Mark 12:38-40, & Philippians 2:2-8. *As the image of God, the firstborn over all creation, how did Jesus use His responsibility and rights as Firstborn?* **CONSIDER** the influence, the resources, the power, and authority Jesus had. *Did he use them for Himself or serve others for their good?* **CONTRAST** that with how Israel and the teachers of the law used their blessings, influence, power, and resources.

PRAY: *Father, I confess that at times my attitudes and actions are more like those of an owner than like those of Jesus. I'm tempted to see Your blessings and resources entrusted **to** me mainly **for** me. Forgive me and help me to see clearly through the lens of a servant's heart.*

DAY 5

TAKE an honest look at how you're currently using your influence, resources, authority, and position.

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalm 139:23-24

REFER to your answers from Day 3. *Do you use those areas in which you have influence, resources, authority, and position, as an owner who claims the right to rule? Or as a steward who serves because he/she views them as a responsibility?* **GO** through each answer. *How are you doing?*

What's your attitude toward having these resources and responsibilities? Do you use these resources and opportunities primarily on or for yourself? Do you feel or believe you have a right to them? Why? Why not? In which areas are you more likely to respond as an owner rather than a steward? Why is this difficult for you? What specific steps can you take this week to serve others with/through your influence? Your resources? Your authority? Your position?

Over the next several weeks, **CONSIDER** committing to regularly (weekly/daily basis) asking God how He wants you to use your influence, resources, authority, and position for His glory and in serving others. As various life circumstances unfold, be mindful of how God may want to utilize these situations as opportunities for you to serve others. **BEGIN** training your heart and mind to develop a servant leader attitude and to **RECOGNIZE** and **CONFESS** when your attitudes/actions are more like those of an owner.