

# POINT OF IMPACT



## THE FIRSTBORN

### THE BLESSING AND BURDEN OF THE FIRSTBORN

*He must acknowledge the son of his unloved wife as the firstborn by giving him a double share of all he has. That son is the first sign of his father's strength. The right of the firstborn belongs to him.* Deuteronomy 21:17

*"If one of your countrymen becomes poor among you and sells himself to you, do not make him work as a slave. <sup>40</sup>He is to be treated as a hired worker or a temporary resident among you; he is to work for you until the Year of Jubilee. <sup>41</sup>Then he and his children are to be released, and he will go back to his own clan and to the property of his forefathers. <sup>42</sup>Because the Israelites are my servants, whom I brought out of Egypt, they must not be sold as slaves.*

*<sup>43</sup>Do not rule over them ruthlessly, but fear your God."* Leviticus 25:39-43

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.

### CARING FOR YOUR TRIBE

*"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard..."* Matthew 20:1

*"So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup>When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. <sup>12</sup>'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' <sup>13</sup>But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius?' <sup>14</sup>Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. <sup>15</sup>Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?"*

*<sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last."* Matthew 20:10-16

## THE CRY FOR JUSTICE

*"So I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive aliens of justice, but do not fear me," says the Lord Almighty.* Malachi 3:5

*Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper... <sup>11</sup>For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

*Jeremiah 29:7,11*

*Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup>Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. <sup>19</sup>In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*

*1 Timothy 6:17-19*

### THE FIRST FIRSTBORN - JESUS

*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.*

*Colossians 1:15*

In the areas which you have influence, resources, authority, and position:  
*Do you view them like the OWNER who claims the right to rule?  
Or as a STEWARD who sees them as a responsibility in which to serve?*

## NEXT STEPS

### FOR FURTHER STUDY:

*Not a Fan by Kyle Idleman*

*When Helping Hurts by Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert*

*Holy Discontent by Bill Hybels*

*Just Courage by Gary Haugen*

*Not for Sale by David Batstone*

*Live Sent: You Are a Letter by Jason C. Dukes*

*Radical by David Platt*