



**READY** | Reward

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Perhaps the best place to begin when talking about rewards is our childhood. All of us in some way have experienced the sweetness of rewards and the sting of consequences.

*During your childhood, what rewards + consequences motivated you the most?*

God's Kingdom is also built upon an economy of rewards + consequences.

*Where have you recently experienced:*

**#1.** *the rewards (of living rightly)*

**#2.** *the consequences (of turning your own way)*

Rewards, inheritances & crowns are spoken about repeatedly throughout the New Testament. While salvation is a free gift, the way that we live will determine the kind of reward we will receive in heaven.

*Describe your reaction to the truth that not everyone will be rewarded equally when we stand before Jesus at the end of our lives here on earth.*

*How does the anticipation of reward impact the way you desire to live now?*

Matt 5-7

1 Cor 3:10-15

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Matt 6:19-21

Popular Culture also operates on an economy of rewards + consequences. Time and experience prove that those rewards are often exaggerated and the consequences underestimated.

*Consider the example of “the Gold, the Girls and the Glory.” What earthly rewards are most enticing to you?*

*Drawing on your experiences or observations, comment on how those earthly pursuits and rewards can hinder your pursuit of God?*

One kingdom promises instant gratification. The other Kingdom promises ultimate satisfaction, albeit sometimes with delay.

*Is it possible to “un-train” ourselves from going after instant gratification and learn to invest in rewards that often come with delay? Share examples.*

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Throughout history, people have concocted all kinds of ideas and coping mechanisms as a result of our sinfulness. Some of these responses may sound familiar:

**“I want it now!”** (instant gratification).      **“I deserve it!”** (entitlement)

**“Will it benefit me?”** (prosperity gospel)      **“Rest In peace”** (assumption)

**“Everyone goes to heaven”** (universalism)

**“No winners or losers”** (denying reality)

**“I have to earn God’s love and forgiveness”** (works-based salvation)

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*Which misunderstandings sound most familiar:*

**#1.** *in your own ways of thinking*

**#2.** *in conversations you've had with people in your circles*

*Consider a scriptural response to each of these misunderstandings.*

Jesus is our **Reward**, to be experienced both now and in eternity.

*Can you describe some of the ways that you've experienced the reward of knowing and journeying with Jesus?*

God's Word teaches us that Christians can anticipate the reward of eternity with God in Heaven. Conversely, the unsaved face the consequence of sin - eternal separation from God in Hell.

Matt 25:31-46

Rom 6:23

*Do you think about Heaven often? Do you think about Hell? Describe.*

*How do we respond to those who struggle with this teaching?*

History has observed a whole array of ways to present the message: turn or burn, prosperity gospel, friendship evangelism.

*What drew you to the good news of Jesus? How are you drawing others?*

**End of session.**

**Next: *Risen***