

First Responders Bible Study

Living Responsively in an Over-reactive World

Introduction:

In the movie, “Father of the Bride,” a young woman calls off her wedding after her fiancé presents her with a blender, as a gift. She misinterprets a simple gift as chauvinism and grossly overreacts. When her father tries to understand her reasoning, she defends her decision and declares she is “not an overreactor.” At this point her dad owns his own legendary, volatile behavior in a conversation with the fiancé in which he confesses that his daughter, “comes from a long line of overreactors.” (Seriously, if you’ve not seen this movie, the hot dog bun scene alone is worth the rental price.)

Truthfully, we all come from a long line of over-reactors. When God caught Adam and Eve with forbidden fruit juice dripping off their chins, they both blurted nonsense. Adam blamed God and Eve. “It was the woman you gave me...” From her spot under the bus, Eve blamed the snake. “The serpent deceived me. That’s why I ate it.”

Why couldn’t either Adam or Eve simply say, “You’re right, God. I messed up. What can I do?” Sadly, they passed this flaw onto their son, Cain, who violently overreacted to God’s opinion of his sacrifice and murdered his brother. Over-reaction is in our DNA.

Whenever we come up against life’s lurches, detours and surprises, our old nature wants us to react with emotions and ridiculous behavior. Entire TV shows, like “The Bachelor,” are based on this very premise. God opens the door for his children to a new way of life. A life where we *respond* to what’s thrown at us. Measured. Thoughtful. Displaying the fruit of the Spirit.

In this study we will look at the lives of some responders and reactors featured in the Bible. We can use the reactors’ stories as cautionary tales about our own behavior. My hope is that examining the responders’ characters will inspire us to incorporate the cry of “More of you and less of me, Lord” into our prayers.