

THE BLESSING OF HONOR PRT 5

- If you are joining us for the first time, you find us going through a teaching series titled **THE BLESSING OF HONOR** and today we are doing prt 5.
- This is a 3rd part of a teaching titled **GOD HONORING IN ALL**.
- We have been exploring God honoring conduct and let's recap from the past week
- 1. **God honor is loving God supremely, more than all other beings and things.**
- 2. **God honor is seen when you fully submit to the authority of God's word**
- 3. **God honor is reflected in how and what you give to God**
- 4. **God honor is when you accurately represent God**

- The Bible calls you and I the body of Christ. In other words, we are supposed to be Christ's true representatives here on earth.

- People will know the type of God they see and experience through you.

2 Corinthians 5: 20 Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ: Be reconciled to God.

- When God wants to execute something on earth, He looks for the church – the body of Christ to work it out.
- An ambassador of a country goes on a mission to represent the sending country – a good ambassador understands what his country stands for and only says and does what is in line with the sending country.
- The same is true with believers – we do not represent our own opinions, but rather we are here on a mission for God's kingdom.
- Now, there is a problem when we start saying and doing things that contradict the sending country or kingdom¹.
- When people walk away from you, what image of God is left in their minds? It is honoring when we accurately represent God.
- After Jesus departed from the earth, the apostles continued representing Him accurately and this resulted in people seeing Jesus in them.

Acts 4: 13 When they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they marveled and took note that these men had been with Jesus.

- Paul was a true representation of the heart of Jesus – he was bold to say things like me:
Philippians 3:17 Join one another in following my example, brothers, and carefully observe those who walk according to the pattern we set for you.

¹ There are calls for DIRCO (South Africa's foreign affairs department) to fire David Kweli Nkosi, after revelations that the South African diplomat has allegedly destroyed not one, but two apartments that he has lived in abroad, whilst representing SA. (May 2021)

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Ephesians 4:1 As a prisoner in the Lord, then, I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling you have received:

- Accurately representing God also means that we make an effort to rightly handle scriptures so that they reflect the heart of God when we present them.
- Every child of God has a responsibility to be truthful with God's truth so as to avoid misaligning the truth.
- *2 Timothy 2:15 Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.*
- When God wanted to deliver Israel from Egypt, He raised Moses. Moses did not go to Egypt on his own accord – he was representing God.
- When Moses was taking the children of Israel to the promised land, he would represent people before God and would represent God before people.
- Everything worked as long as he accurately represented God and then things fell apart the day Moses failed the test.

Numbers 20:10 He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, "Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?" 11 Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank. 12 But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them."

- Moses was angry and portrayed a picture of an angry God – yes there were times that God would be angry towards His children but not this time.
- This time, God wanted to show grace and tenderness and Moses completely misrepresented Him.
- May you be sensitive enough not to over-extend the meaning of scripture in order to fit a narrative – it is dishonoring to God when you over-extend the meaning of scripture in order to fit your narrative.
- The result of misrepresenting God was dire for Moses – he was disqualified from entering the promise. He missed out on the promise that he was part of from the beginning.

5. God honor is when you remain faithful to the assignment God gave you.

- It is important to realize that no one is a mistake, no one was born out of chance. There are illegitimate parents but there are no illegitimate children.
- You have a purpose here on earth and the question is; are you living out your purpose?

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- Many people are wasting their lives by living outside of their purpose.
- There is no heart-breaking moment for a toaster inventor like when he sees his toaster being used to make popcorns.
- A toaster was never designed to make popcorn, it was designed to toast bread or rather to burn bread.
- Can you imagine what goes on in the heart of God when He sees a business person still lining up for a salary at the end of the month.
- In other words, it is God honoring when you choose to faithfully live out your destiny.
- Jesus was a great example of bringing His father honor in such a way.

John 17:4 I have glorified You on earth by accomplishing the work You gave Me to do. 5 And now, Father, glorify Me in Your presence with the glory I had with You before the world existed

- Jesus knew that one way of bringing glory and honor to the father was by finishing the course.
- It is no different for you and me – we have to discover our purpose and live it out.
- Because He had finished his work, He could ask the Father to be clothed by the glory He had before the world began.
- Your resolve will be tested and that is when true honor will go to the destiny maker.
- In His pursuit of purpose, Jesus had testing moments – He had to choose to honor the Father by continuing or bring dishonor by quitting.

John 12: 27 “Now is My soul troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this cause came I unto this hour.

- Jesus felt the pain and agony that was coming His way – it stressed Him but He chose to honor the father.
- Every man that has been used by God in a significant way had a moment of reckoning, where he was pushed to the brink of giving up.
- Moses contemplated suicide when the pressure of ministry was too strong

Numbers 11: 14 I cannot carry all these people by myself; it is too burdensome for me. 15If this is how You are going to treat me, please kill me right now — if I have found favor in Your eyes— and let me not see my own wretchedness.”

- Elijah contemplated death in his moment of discouragement

1 Kings 19: 3 When Elijah heard this, he was afraid and ran for his life, taking his servant with him. When they came to Beersheba in Judah, Elijah left his servant there. 4 Then Elijah walked for a whole day into the desert. He sat down under a bush and asked to die. “I have had enough, Lord,” he prayed. “Let me die. I am no better than my ancestors.” 5 Then he lay down under the tree and slept.

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- The apostle Paul faced tribulations in his ministry that really weighed him down

2 Corinthians 1:8 For we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about the affliction and oppressing distress which befell us in [the province of] Asia, how we were so utterly and unbearably weighed down and crushed that we despaired even of life [itself].

- In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus struggled with the temptation to give up – if Jesus went through this, surely you will face the same challenges.

- But when you face those moments pray like Jesus prayed:

Luke 22:41 And He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, where He knelt down and prayed, 42 "Father, if You are willing, take this cup from Me. Yet not My will, but Yours be done."

- Peter had his fair share dishonoring God – after the death of Jesus, Peter abandoned his post and went back fishing.
- When he went back fishing, that night he caught nothing until Jesus came along. Your life is more fruitful when you operate within your purpose.
- Jesus came and challenged him and showed him that he had dishonored God by abandoning his post.

John 21:15 When they had finished eating, Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love Me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he answered, "You know I love You." Jesus replied, "Feed My lambs." 16 He said to him the second time, Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Feed My sheep. 17 He said to him the third time, Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me? Peter was grieved because He said to him a third time, Do you love Me? And he said to Him, Lord, You know all things, You know that I love You. Jesus said to him, Feed My sheep.

- Jesus asked Peter 3 times and this was becoming a sensitive matter for Peter, I am sure. Jesus was equating Peter's love for Him with his service.