

THE HONOR OF HONORING GOD



EATING WHAT JESUS ATE ...

EVERY DAY, ON EVERY PATH, IN EVERY SEASON ... NO MATTER WHAT ...

TO THE GLORY OF GOD!

1) THE HONOR OF TRUE HONOR

Powerful Principle #1: We are only able to follow and serve our God faithfully when we always seek his honor and never our own. Our food must be to do his will and to accomplish his work no matter what.

I. Jesus knew the honor of true honor, 4:43-35.

- (John 4:43–45 ESV) After the two days he departed for Galilee. 44 (**For Jesus himself had testified that a prophet has no honor in his own hometown.**) 45 So when he came to Galilee, **the Galileans welcomed him**, having seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the feast. For they too had gone to the feast.

II. He knew what was in the heart of those in Galilee.

- (John 2:24 ESV) But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people.

III. Jesus met the woman at the well fully aware of the tensions and rivalries between Samaritans and Jews and the opportunity to cause offense.

The account of Jesus and the people of Sychar provides us with a very powerful and relevant example of how we serve the Father with honor even though we may face personal dishonor in the process.

IV. The potential for dishonor in this situation was great but the end result in Sychar was that many people believed.

A. **Review:** Jesus' food was to do the Father's will so he left Sychar for Galilee because it was the Father's will to go there to accomplish the his work.

- (John 4:34 ESV) Jesus said to them, "**My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.**"

B. Jesus left for Galilee knowing that he would not be honored by most of the people there.

Honor ... τιμή [time /tee-may/]... the state of being highly respected or revered; of the price itself; of the price paid or received for a person or thing bought or sold; honor which belongs or is shown to one; of the honor which one has by reason of rank and state of office which he holds; deference, reverence.

C. He did this to do the Father's will and to accomplish the Father's work in the lives of some.

Powerful Principle #2: Honoring the Father in our service to him even though it often means that we are personally dishonored is a blessed experience of pure joy and true love.

2) HONOR IS NOT A COMMODITY

A commodity is a substance or product that can be traded, bought, or sold.

Powerful Principle #3: Be wary of humans honoring humans who use the deception of flattery and superficial honor to buy and sell influence and authority in the church.

- (John 4:45 ESV) So when he came to Galilee, **the Galileans welcomed him, having seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the feast.** For they too had gone to the feast.

I. Their welcome was merely social bartering—We give you honor and you give us signs and miracles.

II. Same thing when people honor us only to gain our cooperation, friendship, support, etc.

You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours. You roll my log, I'll roll yours. You support my agenda at the next committee meeting, I will be your friend.

III. The person who believes that honor is a commodity is a deceiver and a manipulator who is seeking his or her own honor.

IV. The person who seeks honor by trading honor with other humans cannot believe God.

- (John 5:42–44 ESV) **But I know that you do not have the love of God within you.** 43 I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. 44 **How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?**

V. The person who seeks honor is not faithful to do God's will, does not recognize teaching from God and speaks on his own authority.

- (John 7:17–18 ESV) **If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God** or whether I am

speaking on my own authority. 18 **The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.**

VI. The person who seeks his own honor has not tasted the goodness and righteousness of God by honoring God as God.

- (Isaiah 32:17 ESV) And **the effect of righteousness** will be peace, and **the result of righteousness**, quietness and trust forever.

- (Romans 1:21 ESV) For although they knew God, **they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him**, but they **became futile in their thinking**, and **their foolish hearts were darkened**.

VII. Jesus stayed the course and even in the midst of great dishonor by those whose foolish hearts were darkened did not seek his own honor.

- (John 8:48–50 ESV) **The Jews answered him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?”** 49 Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, **but I honor my Father**, and you dishonor me. 50 **Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge.**

VIII. God will judge us as to whether we seek God and his glory and honor or are self-seeking.

- (Romans 2:6–8 ESV) He will render to each one according to his works: 7 **to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life;** 8 **but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.**

3) THE DISTANCE FROM HONOR TO OFFENSE

Here are some accounts from the other gospels where Jesus did not receive honor in his home area.

- I. The distance between honor and offense can be measured in the time it takes for a person to realize that you are not going to profit them in the relationship.
- II. Jesus taught the people in the synagogue in his hometown and they were utterly amazed (astounded and astonished) until they realized that things were not working out as they intended.

- (Matthew 13:53–58 ESV) And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there, 54 and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, **so that they were astonished**, and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? 55 Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? 56 And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?” 57 **And they took offense at him.** But Jesus said to them, **“A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household.”** 58 And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.

III. They were not just annoyed or peeved but scandalized.

Matthew 13:57 ... “they took offense at him” ... *σκανδαλιζω [skandalidzo]* ... to be appalled; to be or become filled with disgust or revulsion for someone (and therefore reject him); to be offended in one, i.e. to see in another what I disapprove of and what hinders me from acknowledging his authority.

IV. He taught in the synagogue in his hometown and astonished the people but they took offense at him to the extent that Jesus was filled with wonder and astonishment at their unbelief.

- (Mark 6:1–6 ESV) He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. 2 **And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished**, saying, “Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? 3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?” **And they took offense at him.** 4 And Jesus said to them, **“A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.”** 5 And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. 6 **And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching.**

V. An overview of the example in Luke.

A. He proclaimed himself as the Messiah of Scripture.

- Luke 4:16, 20–21 ESV) **And he came to Nazareth**, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ... And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 And he began to say to them, **“Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”**

B. They were impressed with him and his words.

- (Luke 4:22, 24 ESV) **And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth.** And they said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” ... 24 And he said, **“Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown.”**

C. And then they actually heard what he was saying.

- (Luke 4:28–30 ESV) **When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath.** 29 And they rose up and drove him out of the town and **brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff.** 30 But passing through their midst, he went away.

4) So WHY FACE THE REJECTION

Because it is worth it ... What a blessed privilege we have in Christ to honor God and to minister to those to whom he sends us. What could compare to spending our lives honoring the One who most deserves our honor.

- (John 4:46–54 ESV) **So he came again to Cana in Galilee**, where he had made the water wine. And at Capernaum there was an **official whose son was ill.** 47 When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, **he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son**, for he was at the point of death. 48 **So Jesus said to him, “Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe.”** 49 The official said to him, **“Sir, come down before my child dies.”** 50 Jesus said to him, **“Go; your son will live.”** **The**

man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way. 51 **As he was going down**, his servants met him and told him that his son was recovering. 52 **So he asked them the hour** when he began to get better, and they said to him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.” 53 The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” **And he himself believed, and all his household.** 54 This was now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee.

- I. Jesus came again to Cana in Galilee because that was the Father’s will.
- II. Jesus was approached by a man who wanted something from him.
- III. It seems we could accurately deduce that the main work that the Father sent Jesus to Galilee to accomplish was to heal this man’s son and to bring salvation to the man and his entire family.
- IV. But first Jesus used this as an opportunity to address the reluctance of people in general to believe the words of truth.
- V. The Samaritans at Sychar never asked for a sign or a wonder because they believed the words and wanted to hear more of the words.

- (John 4:40–41 ESV) So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. 41 **And many more believed because of his word.**

VI. Philip knew and believed the words.

- (John 1:45 ESV) Philip found Nathanael and said to him, **“We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote,** Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

VII. Jesus used Scripture to open the eyes of the men on the road to Emmaus.

- (Luke 24:27 ESV) **And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.**