

DILIGENCE: THE MISSING FACTOR

Honor, Priority, Diligence

FOUNDATION STATEMENT: What you honor you give priority to and what you give priority to you'll be diligent with.

I. The Law of Diligence

- A. You won't walk in victory without being diligent in hearing and doing Word (Josh 1:8)
- B. Nothing just happens; There's a reason things aren't happening in people's lives-Prov 26:2
 - 1. The natural and spiritual world are governed by laws; If you do this, this happens
 - 2. You're in the condition you're in right now because of what you have or haven't heard and done from the Word
 - 3. You can't ignore spiritual law and then be surprised when the results of the law that you put into motion show up in your life (Js 1:20, Hosea 4:6)
- C. You're supposed to be skillful in the Word of Righteousness; you should be able to run to this Word, do your way out, and **make our way prosperous**-Hebrews 5:11-13
- D. After hearing these things how can a person stay slothful in the Word?

II. Honor, Priority, Diligence

- A. Everybody can be diligent because everybody is diligent at something right now
 - 1. People have **selective diligence**; they're diligent in flesh pleasing activities
 - 2. Most people are outright lazy, but their diligence is **misplaced**
- B. Diligence has been **misplaced** because God and His things have been given no priority
 - 1. Diligence will manifest with the highest priority
 - 2. What is most important to you, you'll be diligent at
- C. God and His things have no priority because of lack of honor
 - 1. Whatever has the place first priority in your life got there through your honor/because you value it the most
 - 2. Honor-**Greek** (Timios)-Estimate or attach a value to something, to honor somebody as sacred or special, to value as of great price, precious, esteemed (valued), to hold especially dear---**Hebrew** (Kabad)-Weight, heaviness, to be heavy or weighty; in those days they had scales and how much something cost was determined by weight; if something was very expensive you had to pile a lot of heavy precious metals on that scale to buy it; the more valuable a thing was the "heavier" the price
 - 3. When we honor something it's valuable to us, it gets priority in our lives, and we're diligent about it
- D. Many believers don't show honor because they're dominated by their feelings

1. Honor says when it's convenient or inconvenient, when I feel like it or when I don't, when I have time or don't have time; you are so valuable to me that I don't care what I have going on you have place, priority, and my diligence (2 Sam 23:14)
 - a. They valued their king enough to die to get in a drink of water; many believers don't value their king enough to come to church
 2. I honor/value this thing so much I can ignore my feelings when it comes to how I treat it; It's not important enough to you to disregard your feelings
 - a. Honor is not **feeling-based** it's a faith-based decision and act of your will
 - b. Honor works **in spite of** feelings, **not in response** to feelings
 - c. I can be diligent in this thing because I value it enough to disregard my feelings
 - 1) Is this Word important enough to you to disregard our feelings for it
 - 2) Have you ever given the Word of God that type of honor that you give carnal things
 3. People are underdeveloped in honor and overdeveloped in their feelings
- E. We are to honor God and His Word (John 5:23)
1. John 1:1-5,14-God is the Word and you can't honor him w/o honoring His Word
 - a. EX: You can't honor your spouse, but not value what they say
 2. We honor God by giving him and his word our diligence
- F. What you honor/value the most you give priority/preference to and you are diligent at
1. Lack of diligence manifest through lack of honor; **it's an honor problem**
 2. Believers aren't diligent in the Word because it has no priority in there lives; it has no priority in their lives because their honor for it is missing; their honor for it is missing because they don't really believe that this Word can change their lives

III. Diligence has been misplaced because honor has been misplaced; you value the wrong thing; it's not a diligence problem it's an honor problem

- A. The Word is precious and knowing what it says and doing it is precious (2 Pt 1:4, Ps 119)
 1. There's great results when you value the Word (Pr 13:13, Ps 119:92,165, 1 Sam 2:30)
- B. Attaching the improper value to things leads to misplaced priority & diligence
 1. Matt 13:45-His selling all that he had and buying that showed he honored it
 2. Luke 14:16-They honored other things more, those had priority, and their diligence
 3. There can only be one first (Luke 14:26-33, Matthew 6:33)
 - a. If I'll keep first things first and be diligent in what's first I'll be the best I can be at what's second, third and so on; You're wife, kids, family and everybody else would enjoy you a lot more if they were second and God was first
 4. Matt 7:6-Hogs value slop as much as they value pearls; they don't see the true value

- a. We won't miss our TV shows slop, but the Word is secondary
- b. EX: We've put a \$5000 price tag on a pack of bubble gum
- C. There is two different values systems (John 5:41,44, 1 Samuel 16:7)
 - 1. What men see as important often times God sees as meaningless
 - 2. What God sees as important often times men **don't have time for it**
- D. If your honor is misplaced your priorities are out of whack, your diligence will be misplaced, and you won't walk in victory

IV. Locating your honor

- A. Where is your honor? Find your diligence (Malachi 1:6)
 - 1. Matthew 15:8-Many believers like to think that they can honor God
 - a. Matthew 6:24-Their heart/treasure, what they value the most is far from me
 - 2. Malachi 1:6-13-When it comes TV you got time, attention, and effort to give
 - a. 6-They despised his name
 - b. 8-God got the polluted stuff, the governor got the good stuff
 - c. 11-Second best doesn't please God and he doesn't accept it
 - d. 12-They didn't value God's stuff and they weren't excellent and diligent in it
 - e. 13-It was too inconvenient for them
- B. Proverbs 5:7-13-We can locate your honor by locating your diligence
 - 1. 7-Your attention is your diligence
 - 2. 9-Your effort, energy, and excellence is your diligence
 - a. Vigor-Physical or mental strength and energy; intensity
 - b. Splendor-The condition of being magnificent, impressive, or excellent
 - 3. 9-Your years (time) your diligence
 - 4. 10-Your money is what your diligence
 - 5. 10-Your labor is your diligence

V. A big part of developing diligence is becoming developed in honor

- A. Release your faith-I am a person who honors God and His Word above all else
- B. Find and attach the proper value to things
- C. Ignore your feelings
- D. Refer to the Word with honor
- E. Confer upon the Word-Make time for the Word
- F. Prefer the Word over other things-Practice giving it priority