

## THE HONOR OF GOD

### Are You Worthy?

#### I. Are You Worthy?

A. Don't confuse righteous with worthy of the precious things of God

1. If you've accepted Jesus as your Lord by faith then you are righteous right now
  - a. **Innocent**-Free from guilt; not having done wrong or violated any law; not tainted with sin; pure; upright
  - b. **Faultless**-Without fault; free from blemish; free from incorrectness; Free from imperfection; perfect
  - c. **Guiltless**-Guilt renders a person a debtor to the law, as it binds him to pay a penalty in money or suffering. Guilt implies liableness to punishment.
  - d. To be declared righteous-A just person has been declared righteous; Justification is the act of God removing from the sinner, his guilt and the penalty incurred by that guilt, and bestowing a positive righteousness, not only innocent and uncondemned, but actually righteous in the point of law for eternity
  - e. Approved of or accepted of God; the condition acceptable to God; You are everything that you need to be to approach God
  - f. In God's eyes because of the blood and what's it's done you've done no wrong, you owe nothing for "your" sin because you have none, God has declared you righteous, he made you righteous, you are approved of God, accepted of God, you are clean, you are holy and you are everything you need to be to approach God boldly and your nature is good, you are a joint heir with Jesus and God has given you all things that pertain to life and godliness and every believer can experience the rich things of God and fully fulfill the plan of God for their life and all of that happens the moment you're born again
  - g. People through religious thinking thought they are just substandard people who are not good enough and don't measure up and are not good enough for his blessing; None of us were good enough and could never be so Jesus had to make us right with his righteousness
  - h. Because God paid such a great price for you it shows how much worth you carry in his eyes and he deemed you worthy of the price that He paid for you

B. Just because you are all those things doesn't mean that you are automatically worthy handling and experiencing and having the precious things of God; There is a proving that has to take place when it comes to the precious things of God and you have to deem yourself worthy to have and handle God's precious things

1. Can believers be unworthy to have certain things, to handle certain things?

2. 1Tim3:10-To be saved all you have to do is believe, but to be chosen and used you have to be proven (Proved-Deemed Worthy)
  - a. Every believer is accepted of God, but not every believing is deemed worthy of this
3. Luke 16:11-God is not going to entrust you with a thing that you have not proven yourself trustworthy to handle
4. **What makes you worthy to be chosen to handle, to have, to experience the precious things of God?**

- C. God's not going to let His love for you blind Him of the truth that you are not worthy to handle these precious things and just give them to you anyway because He loves you; such things are too valuable to give to someone who doesn't value them and so you've judged yourself unworthy to have them and yet God still loves you
1. God's not going to ignore how you treat him and his things and give you precious and holy things anyway just because he loves you
    - a. There are some things that are too precious and too valuable to give to someone who doesn't value them
    - b. They are not worthy to handle them because the worth of the thing they are handling is very little in their eyes
  2. The care and the honor with which you treat God and His things is going to determine the level of depth and richness that you experience in his things
- D. We are not talking about who's righteous, who's clean, who's forgiven before God. That's by the blood and faith in the blood. We are talking about who's worthy to be honored by God, who's worthy to have and handle and experience the precious things of God.

## II. **Acts 13:46-What you don't value and appreciate and honor you judge yourself unworthy to have**

- A. 26-The Word of salvation is for everybody, but it's not sent to everybody, it's sent to those who fear God
1. 16-This is a precious thing that he is giving out and he makes it clear in the beginning that he's only talking to people who honor God
    - a. Is this word of salvation precious, holy, sacred? Yes; Then as a result of that it's only for those who honor/fear God-Matthew 7:6
  2. If you despise God/His things and don't respect Him then this word is not sent to you
    - a. *Proverbs 23:9-Speak not in the ears of a fool; for he will despise the wisdom of your words*
  3. 16-39-He preaches Jesus to them and the resurrection and their justification
- B. 41-Beware and take heed and pay attention and see to it that this dishonor spoken of in the prophets doesn't come on you (*judgment came on God's people in the Habakkuk because they despised, what they should have honored*)

1. Can it come on you? Yes. Does it have to come on you? No. You be on guard against and see to it that it doesn't come on you; You don't have to be a person of dishonor, but you have to guard against it and not allow it to come on you
  2. You're going to despise, you're going to wonder, and you're going to perish; don't let that happen to you
    - a. 41-There's a connection between dishonoring and despising the things of God and perishing- Proverbs 13:13
  3. **41-Beware of not honoring and valuing what you should honor and value**
    - a. Don't think little or nothing of this message you're hearing; Don't make light of it
    - b. *MSG-Don't take this lightly. You don't want the prophet's sermon to describe you. "Watch out cynics; Look hard – watch your world fall to pieces. I'm doing something right before your eyes that you won't believe though it's staring you in the face."*
- C. The Gentiles wanted what Jews didn't, they valued what the Jews threw out and rejected
1. 42-The Gentiles valued these words he preached and wanted these words preached to them again (Amp-Earnestly Begged)
  2. 44-How did word get out about this meeting that was coming up next Sabbath? The Gentiles must have went a told people how great this word was and the whole city turned out to hear this word; They value this word that was preached
  3. 45-This is dishonoring and despising the Word of God; The spoke against the words Paul spoke, not just Paul himself
    - a. **Spoke against**-Contradict, Deny, Gainsaying-Declaring it not to be true, dispute
    - b. **Blaspheming**-*Reproach*-Scorn or contempt; *Railing*-To utter reproaches, to scoff; *Revile*-To treat with contemptuous language; *Slander*-A false report maliciously uttered and tending to injure the reputation of another by lessening him in the esteem of others
  4. 46-**Put it from you**-Thrust away, push away, reject, refuse (They did this to the Word)
    - a. Why would you push it away and reject it? Because it means nothing to you and is of no value to you
- D. 46-Because you don't value it you judge yourself unworthy to have it
1. They passed judgment on themselves that they weren't worthy to have it
    - a. **Judge**-Deem, Determine; They deemed this to be so and determined this to be so
  2. **What made them unworthy?**
    - a. It wasn't bad behavior, it was that they were just intrinsically bad people, it wasn't that they weren't perfect enough, it wasn't their lack of good works – What made them unworthy of it is that they didn't honor it and value it

- b. Do you think in this crowd of gentiles there were any people who weren't perfect, who had some bad behavior, who lacked in good works? Absolutely – What made them worthy of it is that they valued it, they honored it, and it meant something to them
  - c. **What makes you worthy? It's not your good works or that you're intrinsically better than someone else; what makes you worthy is that you honor it and value it and it means something to you and it's important to you and that makes you worthy of it**
  - 3. **It wasn't just God judging them unworthy of it, He wanted them to have it – Through dishonor they judged themselves unworthy of it**
- E. 46-Lo, we turn to the Gentiles-He said we found somebody that wanted it – **God goes where honor is**
- 1. **They had judged themselves worthy of it and it wasn't through a bunch of good works it was through their honor for it**
  - 2. **47-Why would God send these guys to these people? Because he knew their heart and he knew they would value it and honor it**
    - a. Why did God send Elijah to THAT widow? Why did God send Elisha to THAT leper? Why did God send Paul to THESE people?
  - 3. **48-Do you know why they're getting the Word and getting revelation of it? The answer is right here, because they glorified (honored) it**
- F. Why did God choose to do this for them? The Jews were invited, but the Gentiles were chosen

### III. Matthew 22:1-14-What you make light of you judge yourself unworthy to partake of

- A. 3-These people that didn't come are people of dishonor and it shows up right away
- 1. He had to send his servants to call them there were invited; You can tell already that it doesn't mean much to these people; They were already were invited, but didn't come so he had to send his servants to go call them to tell them it's ready so come on now; if it was important to you you'd be there before it was ready
  - 2. **4-AGAIN**-He Gave them a third chance (1<sup>st</sup> Chance was the invitation, 2<sup>nd</sup> chance was sending his servants the first time)
  - 3. If they will honor their king and come they are going to partake of some rich things and this wedding, but because of dishonor/disrespect/despising this their window of opportunity is closing; God affords us certain opportunities that won't last forever
- B. 3-Why wouldn't you come? You could have come, but you chose not to so why? It's not important enough to you and something else was too important to you, more important to you
- 1. 3-They **WOULD** not come; that didn't say they **COULD** not come, it said they **WOULD** not come; So they **COULD** have come
  - 2. 5-What was so important? One's farm and another's business was more important to them than God and His things

- C. 5-The made light of it (Carless, Neglect)-**NEVER make light of something that is important to the Lord, for that is dishonor**
1. The dinner was no big deal to them and so them not being at the dinner was a no big deal to them, and they think that them not being there will be no big deal to the King/the Lord, but it was a big deal to the King/the Lord
    - a. Luke 14:16-**Great Supper**-Things esteemed highly for their importance
    - b. Luke 14:18-20-They made excuse and asked to be excused and they weren't excused; It was not okay with the Lord that they didn't come and it was a big deal to him that they didn't come, but they thought was it's no big deal
      - 1) **Just cause you want it to be okay doesn't mean that it is okay ; "Oh it's okay" "Oh it's not a big deal" "The Lord understands"**
      - 2) **There's no excuse for God not being first, there's no excuse for dishonor**
  2. You dishonor the Lord and your things will be lightly esteemed
    - a. 5-7-In doing this to the King's servants they dishonored the King and because they dishonored him their lives and their stuff was lightly esteemed by him and mean nothing to him
    - b. This guy's farm and this guy's business now mean little to nothing to the Lord
- D. 8-The ones who rejected this wedding and didn't esteem and value it were not worthy of it; they actually judged themselves unworthy to partake of it because they didn't esteem it and it wasn't important to them
1. **What they were going to partake of at this wedding was too good for them to have; They weren't worthy of it**
  2. **What made them unworthy of it? It wasn't their bad conduct or that they were bad people or that they were substandard people who just didn't measure up and weren't good enough for it; You couldn't say that because He invited them, He picked them, He selected them and asked them to come and even when they ignored him he asked them again-What made them unworthy of it is that they didn't value it and it didn't mean anything to them**
    - a. **10-They might have been bad, but they valued it enough to come and here there are people whose conduct wasn't all that good and yet they partook of it because it meant something to them**
    - b. **10-With maybe not the best conduct they judged themselves worthy to partake of it because it means something to them**
  3. 10-Do you think these people in the highways were doing anything, going anywhere, had plans that day? Do you think maybe some of them had their own business or had their own farms and were tending to those things when the invitation came? Yet this wedding and their king meant enough to

them that whatever they were doing it wasn't as important as their king and this wedding he was having and because that was their attitude they judged themselves worthy to partake of it

4. **If it's not worth it to you, then you are not worthy of it**

a. **What you don't value and appreciate and honor you judge yourself unworthy to have – Is that fair?**

E. 11-His heart was revealed in how he is was dressed and what he wore

1. 11-The way he was dressed revealed his heart, that this wedding wasn't that important to him

2. 12-He was speechless b/c he didn't think that what he wore mattered to the king; after all HE showed up when others didn't

3. 13-He lost the opportunity to be at this wedding because he did not value it and we saw that in how he dressed

F. 14-Many are invited but few are chosen; who does God choose? He chooses those that honor him and value his things

1. **It's not a mystery or some type of random thing when it comes to who God chooses; it's clear and He makes it clear to us that he chooses those that honor him**

2. **You don't have to wonder if you'll be chosen or be afraid that you won't be chosen, you can ensure that you will be chosen by honoring God and his things the best you know how**

G. 2-The Kingdom of Heaven is like this (God invites people to partake of precious things and many don't have time for it so they miss out on it, but there are a few who will value it and esteem it as precious and they will partake of the rich things of God)