

THE HONOR OF GOD

What Is God Looking For?

I. 2 Chronicles 16:9-What is God looking for?

- A. God is eager about finding someone who is after his heart
 - 1. **Run to and fro**-To go eagerly or quickly to and fro
- B. Throughout the whole earth-**You can't hide honor from God, you honor God and he's going to find it and honor you**
 - 1. **You may feel like you're in a place he wouldn't find it, but God's going to find honor, He will sniff it out**
 - 2. Malachi 1:13, Acts 13:46-God's going to find somebody who honors him
- C. God is looking for somebody who He has all of (Everything, Anything, Anywhere, Anytime)
 - 1. **If something is valuable enough to you, you'll give all of yourself to it (Perfect-Complete, Whole, Full)**
 - a. *EXB-For people who have given themselves completely to Him, He wants to strengthen them*
 - b. *ICB-Who have given themselves completely to Him. He wants to make them strong*
 - c. *MSG-God is always alert, constantly on the look out for people who are totally committed to Him*
 - 2. **Is God really looking for this?**
- D. If God showed himself strong on your behalf that's him honoring you (We see the 1 Samuel 2:30 principle in play)
 - 1. **Strong**-Display strength, Sustain, Support, Use one's strength
 - 2. *ESV-To give strong support; VOICE-To strongly support; TLB-So that He can show His great power in helping them*
 - 3. God is only looking to do this for a particular group of people (anybody can join the group at anytime)
- E. God values honor and honor is what's important to him and we can see that because it's what he is in search of; we can see what a person values and honors by looking at what they seek after
 - 1. **If God is really looking for this, then this perfect heart ought to become your great quest**
 - 2. **This is huge that God has revealed to us what he's looking for**

II. Acts 13:22-God said he was looking for a man after His heart

- A. When it comes to promotion and positions of great responsibility in the Kingdom God doesn't look for the most qualified, he doesn't look for the perfect person who has never made a mistake, but rather He looks for a person who is **after** (in pursuit of) what's important to Him

1. God's looking for a person to be king and he didn't pick the most talented or the most perfect, He picked one who honored him the most, who God and His stuff meant the most to
 - a. God doesn't promote based on talent, he can add talent to you, he promotes based on honor
 2. **Honor is paramount in being used of God**
 - a. 2 Timothy 2:11,19-21-If you'll separate yourself unto the Lord you'll be a vessel of honor and you'll be set apart, fit and ready for God to use you – How set apart you are determines how used you are
- B. I have found a man after my own heart – God was looking
1. **Found**-To come upon after searching, to find a thing sought, to find by enquiry, examination, scrutiny, observation
- C. This man was after what was important to the Lord because if you are after God's heart you are after His treasure/what He values/what's important to Him (Where God's heart is there is treasure his also); David was after what was important to the Lord-Matthew 6:21
1. *CEB-A man who shares my desires*
 2. *EXB-A man whose heart is like mine*
 3. *MSG-Whose heart beats to my heart*
 4. **When what's important to the Lord becomes the most important thing to you, THEN you'll be honoring Him and you'll be a man after His own heart**
 5. This man after God's heart will do fully what the Lord wants because what the Lord wants is the most important thing to Him
- D. 1 Samuel 13:14-The Lord has sought him a man after his own heart
1. **Sought**-To seek to find, Desire, Require
 2. **God not only seeks this and desires this, He requires it if He's going to honor a man with precious things**

III. Three examples of why David was chosen; This right here showed that David was a man of honor, a man after God's own heart, and this had so much to do with why David was picked to be the next king and why God used him the way he did

- A. 1 Samuel 24:10-By treating God's choice with honor and respect, David treated God that way
1. 5-His heart smote him because his heart was right
 2. David said about Saul, "He is the Lord's anointed," and David wouldn't touch him
 - a. Dishonor would say oh it doesn't matter, he's just a man and after all he's going nuts and doing the wrong stuff
 3. God delivered David and made him the King – David honored the Lord and the Lord honored him
- B. 1 Chronicles 17:1, 22:5-David had a heart to give God the best he could

1. *MSG-Look at this: Here I am comfortable in a luxurious palace of cedar and the Chest of the Covenant sits under a tent.*
 - a. You can here it in David's tone, that in his heart the Lord deserves better than this and that this tent isn't good enough for the Lord and David has it in his heart to build something nicer for the Lord
 - b. David said it's not right that I live in a house of cedars and God lives in a tent; We're going to build him something and it's got to be exceedingly magnificent
 - c. He looked at that tent and said that's not good enough for the Lord
 2. 5-6-God didn't ask David for a house and all these years nobody ever thought to build God a house, but David did
 3. 10-God told David I'm going to build you a house
 4. 16-David said, "Who am I that you would do all of this for me?"
 5. 17-18-God honored David
 6. David just had it in his heart to do this for the Lord and it blessed the Lord so much that it got this great response from Him
- C. 2 Samuel 24:24-David wouldn't give something to the Lord that cost him nothing; Dishonor wants it to cost nothing; Honor doesn't care if it costs everything
1. 18-To build an altar unto the Lord is going to cost David money
 - a. He has to buy the threshing floor, he has to buy the materials to build the altar, he has to offer a burnt offering
 2. 22-Araunah was a man of honor: He gave David everything he needed for this altar and offering
 - a. He literally told David to take whatever He wanted
 3. 24-David did not want to offer something to the Lord that costs him nothing
 - a. Versions
 - 1) *CEV-I can't offer the Lord My God a sacrifice that I got for nothing*
 - 2) *TLB-I don't want to offer to the Lord my God burnt offerings that have cost me nothing*
 - 3) *MSG-No. I've got to buy it from you for a good price; I'm not going to offer God, my God, sacrifices that are no sacrifice*
 - 4) *VOICE-No, I will buy these things from you. **Name your price.** I will not make an offering to the Eternal One, my True God, that has cost me nothing.*
 - b. David wanted it to cost him something; It was important to him that what he gave to the Lord cost him something
 4. Don't cower away from the thing that cost you something; Seek the thing that cost you something

- a. For some, the moment it cost something you lose them, the moment it gets uncomfortable, the moment they are a little inconvenienced they are gone and in search of the thing that cost them nothing
- b. Some believers don't want it to cost anything and they don't want to pay any price
- c. Beware of wanting it to cost you nothing, because that means to you it means nothing
- d. When you want it to be convenient, when you want it to be casual, when you want it to be light you want it to cost you nothing
- e. Paying a great price reveals great honor and if there was no cost at all then there was no honor

IV. Our attitude ought to be there may be some more talented, more gifted, more experienced, but there won't be one who honors God more, who God and his things mean more to

- A. Proverbs 20:6-People who honor the Lord are not as common as you might think
 - 1. **There's no shortage of people who say they honor the Lord, but there is a shortage of people who actually do**
 - 2. **Faithful**-Trusty, can be relied on
- B. Our attitude ought to be there may be some more talented, more gifted, more experienced, but there won't be one who honors God more, who God and his things mean more to
 - 1. 1 Samuel 16:7-In David's day there were many more qualified, more gifted, with more experience
 - a. God's look on the heart and by doing so he finds out what you value and what means the most to you because where your treasure is there is your heart also
 - 2. **When God looks at your heart he sees your treasure and what you value the most and that's why God looks on the heart because the most important thing to him is to find out what's most important to you**
 - a. God is very interested in finding out what's most important to you
 - b. God's not looking for perfect conduct, he's not looking for one who finishes their Christian checklist, he's just looking for someone who his stuff means something to
- C. Judges 6-Why did God choose Gideon?
 - 1. 6-Greatly Impoverished-Exceedingly, abundantly
 - 2. 10-Dishonor has them in this position
 - 3. 11,15-He's not that impressive naturally
 - 4. 18,19-In a time of great, exceeding, abundant poverty he gives an offering the Lord
 - a. **In a time where they were greatly impoverished and his hiding threshing wheat in a winepress just how valuable is goat and approximately 40 liters/10 gallons of flour? In a time of famine this had to be precious to him and yet he gives it to the lord-Prov3:9**
 - b. This was more than about money and stuff this revealed his heart and his honor for God
 - 5. 24-This meant enough to him that he built an altar to the Lord

- a. **It didn't say God told him to build one he just built one; God's things mean something to him**
 - b. Altars were places where people would worship God by making sacrifices and they were memorials for his goodness
 - 6. 27-This is why he got picked because the Lord's words mean something to him
 - a. Gideon knows he's going to catch trouble because of this, but this is so important to him he does it anyway
 - 7. 7:1-Dishonor deserts, but honor sticks with the Lord when it doesn't understand
 - a. 1-7-He doesn't understand this, but honor doesn't have to understand
 - 8. There might have been people more gifted, more talented, but there was no one who honored God more
 - a. **He didn't get picked because he had perfect conduct and didn't have any faults; he judged himself worthy to have this because God's things meant something to him**
- D. You can initiate more of God's honor in your life
- 1. God does not honor everybody with the same amount of blessing, grace, revelation, His presence, greater assignments, greater anointings so then to whom does God choose to give these precious things? Can you initiate Him honoring you more and experiencing these precious things more? Could you deem yourself worthy and fit to have and handle and experience these things?
 - 2. **Why does God use whom He does? Why does He choose whom he does? Why does he anoint he does? Why does He manifest himself to whom He does? Why does give some greater assignment and greater responsibility? God looks on the heart, He looks for people who Him and His things are important to**