

## THEM THAT HONOR ME

### The Quality Of Your Service & The Level Of Your Honor

- I. **2 big ways they dishonored The Lord: Took theirs first and took the best**—*1Sm2:12-KJ*—The sons of Eli were sons of Belial; **THEY KNEW NOT THE LORD** (NIRV—Honor). <sup>13</sup>And the priest's custom with the people was, that, when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant came, while the flesh was in seething, with a fleshhook of three teeth in his hand; <sup>14</sup>And he struck it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the fleshhook brought up the priest took for himself. So they did in Shiloh unto all the Israelites that came thither. <sup>15</sup>Also **BEFORE THEY BURNT THE FAT**, the priest's servant came, and said to the man that sacrificed, Give flesh to roast for the priest; for he will not have sodden flesh of thee, but raw. <sup>16</sup>And if any man said unto him, Let them not fail to burn the fat presently, and then take as much as thy soul desires; then he would answer him, Nay; but thou shalt give it me now: and if not, I will take it by force; **Lv3:16-ALL THE FAT** is the Lord's
- A. We give God our best and that demonstrates our honor for him—*1Co15:58*—Always abounding (abound in quality) in the work of the Lord; **AM**—Doing your best and doing more than is needed
- B. Giving God our best is serving Him with all our heart—Halfhearted is without effort, interest, energy, enthusiasm—*2Ch31:20*—In every work that he began in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart and prospered
- II. **The quality of what you do for the Lord is a reflection of your honor**—*Gn4:3*—Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord <sup>4</sup>And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings (first produced) of his flock and of the fat (choice part, best) thereof. And The Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: <sup>5</sup>But unto Cain and to his offering He had not respect (regard, value). And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. <sup>6</sup>And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth and why is thy countenance fallen? <sup>7</sup>If thou do well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou do not well, sin lieth at the door
- A. The quality of the offerings is the issue here—Abel brought the **BEST** portion of the **FIRST** produced while Cain's offering was inferior in quality and evil—**NL**—The best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock; *Hb11:4*—By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent (greater in quality) sacrifice than Cain—*1Jn3:12*—Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil and his brothers righteous *Mal:8*—If ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil?
- B. Why did Abel give first and best and why didn't Cain?—**The level of honor was the reason for the offering** — It was important Abel and was not to Cain
1. As the level of honor varies so does the quality of what you do for the Lord—The degree of your effort, the level of your commitment, the quality of your service the all varies based on the level of honor you have for God
  2. Honor begets greater degrees of effort, greater levels of commitment, a greater quality of service—Why are some at every service, every workday, give in every offering, read their Bible and some never seem to have the time?—**It's not that people don't have enough time, energy or money, they don't have enough honor**
- C. The degree of your effort, the level of your commitment, the quality of your service speaks for itself in terms of your honor—*1Ch29:2*—I have prepared with all my might for the house of my God. <sup>3</sup>I have set my affection to the house of my God. <sup>4</sup>Three thousand talents of gold; *2Sm23:15*—David longed and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate! <sup>16</sup>And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that was by the gate, and took it, and brought it to David
1. You can say what you want, but what you do exposes you—Elevated their traditions above The Word, didn't honor who God said honor, pretended to honor God—*Mt:15:3-KJ/AC*—Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? <sup>4-AC</sup>For God commanded, Honor your father and your mother, and, He who curses or reviles or speaks evil of or abuses or treats improperly his father or mother, let him surely come to his end by death. <sup>5</sup>But you say, If anyone tells his father or mother, What you would have gained from me [that is, the money and whatever I have that might be used for helping you] is already dedicated as a gift to God, then he is exempt and no longer under obligation to honor and help his father or his mother. <sup>6</sup>So for the sake of your tradition, you have set aside the Word of God. <sup>7</sup>You pretenders (hypocrites)! Truly did Isaiah prophesy of you when he said: <sup>8-KJ</sup>This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

- D. The degree of your effort, the level of your commitment, the quality of your service is a window into your heart—Where your best is, your honor is, your heart is—**Mt6:22**—Where your treasure is there will your heart be also
1. The degree of your effort, the level of your commitment, the quality of your service exposes your heart—Cain's heart was exposed by the quality of his offering
  2. Cain got mad because he couldn't pretend anymore and he didn't want to change—**Jn3:20**—Every one that does evil hates the light...lest his deeds should be reprov'd
- E. What we do for The Lord can vary in quality—All service is not the same to Him—**Hb11:4**
1. God cares about the quality of the service because it reveals the heart—**1Sm16:7**—Looks on the heart; **Jr17:10**—I the Lord search the heart; **Dt8:2**—To know what was in your heart
  2. The quality of our service is determined by the heart in it—Ex-2 Pictures for God
  3. It means something to God when we give Him our best—**Hb11:4**—By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaks; **NIRV**—God said good things about his offerings
    - a. God saw what Able did and talked about it—**NCB**—God Himself bearing witness to his gifts