

**THEM THAT HONOR ME**  
How You Treat God's Things

I. **Their dishonor showed up in 3 ways: 1) Took theirs first 2) Took the best 3) How they treated God's things**—*1Sm2:12-KJ*—Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; THEY KNEW NOT THE LORD. <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 desireth; then he would answer him, Nay; but thou shalt give it me now: and if not, I will take it by force. <sup>17</sup>Wherefore THE SIN OF THE YOUNG MEN WAS VERY GREAT BEFORE THE LORD: for men ABHORRED THE OFFERING OF THE LORD. <sup>22</sup>Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. <sup>23</sup>And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people. <sup>24</sup>Nay, my sons; for it is no good report that I hear: ye make THE LORD'S PEOPLE to transgress. <sup>25</sup>If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man SIN AGAINST THE LORD, who shall intreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the Lord would slay them. <sup>27</sup>And there came a man of God unto Eli, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Did I plainly appear unto the house of thy father, when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house? <sup>28</sup>And did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to offer upon MINE ALTAR, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? and did I give unto the house of thy father all the offerings made by fire of the children of Israel? <sup>29</sup>Wherefore kick (despise, trample down) ye at MY SACRIFICE and at MINE OFFERING, which I have commanded in MY HABITATION; and honourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest (first, best) of all the offerings of Israel MY PEOPLE? <sup>30</sup>Wherefore the Lord God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me forever: but now the Lord saith, be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that DESPISE ME shall be lightly esteemed.

- A. They abhorred the offering of the Lord—Abhor is to not value something and treat it as base, low in value—NOTE: Abhor—ST—Scorn [To think unworth; Disdain which springs from a person's opinion of the meanness (lack of quality/dignity, low state) of an object and a belief of his own superiority or worth]; Contemn (To treat as base, to despise, to slight, to neglect as unworthy of regard), Despise (Have low opinion of); BDB—Spurn (treat with contempt); W1828—To despise
- B. They despised The Lord—Despise is to not value and treat as unimportant—NOTE: (OT)—ST—Disesteem [W1828—Want of esteem (prize, set high value on, regard with reverence and respect), less than hatred or contempt, disregard (indifference, slight as unworthy of regard)]; A.Heb—Treat something as no longer of value; Despise (NT)—ST—Unhonored, dishonored; TH—Base (low in value), less esteem
1. God uses the word despise to contrast honor—*1Sam2:30*; *Ma1:6*—Where is mine honor?...O priests that despise my name; *1Cor4:10*—You are honorable but we are despised
  2. God used lightly esteem interchangeably with despise—Lightly esteem—ST—Make light, trifling (of small value/importance); BDB—Of little account; A.Heb—Light in weight
  3. Despise means small, insignificant, unimportant—*Ob2*—I have made you small (insignificant, unimportant) among the heathen; you are greatly despised
  4. Despise isn't just to hate—*Gn25:34*—Despised birthright; *Ec9:16*—Poor man's wisdom despised
- C. They despised God by how they treated His things—*Ma1:6*—A son honors his father and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine HONOR? and if I be a master where is my fear? says the Lord of hosts unto you O priests that DESPISE my name. And ye say, wherein have we despised thy name? 'Ye offer polluted bread upon MINE ALTAR; and ye say Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say THE TABLE OF THE LORD is contemptible (despise)
1. One big way people fail to honor God is they fail treat His things like they are important—People fail to make this connection
  2. How you treat a thing speaks to your honor for that thing—They were saying this(V7) not with their words, but by how they were treating it; What are you saying that you're not saying?
- D. Honor deals with your treatment of a person or thing—The were coming into God's place and despising HIS offering, HIS sacrifice, HIS altar, HIS people, HIS place

- E. Does God care how you treat His things?—A big deception is that God doesn't care how I treat His stuff, what He cares about is my heart and He knows my heart
1. He takes it personally—By how you treat my things, you despise me; He is not **His** offering, **His** habitation, **His** people
  2. He cares greatly—It's a big deal to God how you great His things—(1Sm2:17—The sin was very great before The Lord)—When God puts you in charge of His things you are stewarding His things and one of your main jobs is to make sure His things are handled with the honor they are due; God came to Eli (not his sons) because he should've stopped it; If people despise God's things and won't change they need to be removed; Eli didn't do enough, talking wasn't enough—Mt7:6
  3. People like to pretend God doesn't care because then they don't have to care—"If He doesn't care, I don't have to care."

II. **God has things and the way you treat His things reveals your honor for Him**—1Co7:32—He that is unmarried cares for THE THINGS THAT BELONG TO THE LORD, how he may please the Lord

- A. God still has things—1.His church/His churches—Ac20:28—The Church Of God; Mt16:18—I will build MY Church; Ac15:41—He went though Syria and Cilicia confirming the churches; 1Th2:4, 2Th1:4—The churches of God 2.His place—Ha1:9—Mine house; 1Co11:22—Have you not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise you the church of God; **Church**—A house consecrated to the worship of God, among Christians; the Lords house. This seems to be the original meaning of the word. The Greek, to call out or call together, denotes an assembly or collection. But, Lord, a term applied by the early Christians to Jesus Christ; and the house in which they worshipped was named from the title; 3.His leaders—Ep4:11—**HE GAVE** some apostles; and some prophets; and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 1Th5:12—Them which labor among you and are over you in the Lord; 4. His services—Ez44:24—In all mine assemblies 5. His offerings—Ex35:21—The Lord's offering 6.His Word—2Co4:2—Nor handling the word of God deceitfully 7.His business/work—Lk2:49—My Father's business; 1Co15:58—The Work Of The Lord 8.His ministry—Rm11:13—For I speak to you Gentiles, in as much as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office (service, ministry); 2Tm1:1—Paul, an apostle, of Jesus Christ by the will of God
- B. Many try to separate God from His things—They don't want to call what's God's, God's because then they'll have to treat it like it's a big deal
1. People even created a separate category called "ministry"—All the stuff above people don't want to say it's God's and so they say that's just ministry—If it's **JUST** a service, a building, a minister, an offering, or just ministry they can treat it however they please
  2. Until you say it's God's you won't honor it the way you should—To honor God you have to call what's His, "His"
  3. Is it "a" (service, church, offering) or is it "HIS"
- C. Many try to separate their honor for God from how they treat His things—Mt15:6—For the sake of your tradition, you have set aside the Word of God. "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me; Ac9:4—Saul, Saul, why persecutes thou me...I am Jesus whom thou persecutes