

Church of the Promise

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Infusion

Become

Believe

Belong

Befriend

#6 Honor's Reward

John Bevere

INFUSING THE LIFE FOUND IN CHRIST
THROUGH FAITH IN GOD'S VITAL PRECEPTS,
MAKING EVERY MEMBER WHOLE
SPIRIT, SOUL & BODY

Honor's Reward

Session Six

~♦✿♦✿♦✿♦✿♦✿♦ ~ **Befriend** ~♦✿♦✿♦✿♦✿♦✿♦ ~

These are the Chapter titles for the book “Honor’s Reward”, by John Bevere. The purpose of this class is to encourage you to read the book and attend the Video sessions with a group as soon as it is available. We have selected just a very small portion for this session. It is just a sampling from the material.

Rewards Await You

Partial and No Rewards

Full Reward

Little to Do with the Leader

Authority

Harsh Authority

Honoring Civil Leaders

Honoring Social Leaders

Honoring Domestic Leaders

Honoring Church Leaders

Double Honor

Honoring Our Peers

Honoring Those Entrusted to Us

Honor in the Home—Children

Honor in the Home—Wife

Honor All

Honoring God

“Honor *is* the key *essential* to receiving from God”. ~John Bevere~

1. Rewards Await You: (Chp. 1)

“Honor carries with it great rewards; rewards God desires you to have. Honor has the power to greatly enhance your life.”

“Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.” II John 8

A). **DON'T LOSE YOUR INHERITANCE**- John Bevere encourages us to: “Look to yourselves...”
(take heed, examine, and watch out for ourselves)

“Christianity is not a sprint but an endurance run. Therefore it is not ***how we start*** the race that counts but ***how we finish***. How we finish is determined by the choices we make, and those are often formed by patterns we develop along the way.”

Scenario:

“Imagine a farmer toiling to clear his field. He works through the heat of the day to rid the soil of boulders and stumps that would hinder the soil from producing a harvest. Once cleared, he plows and tills the ground in preparation for the planting of his seed. Once the field is planted, he labors to maintain the ideal conditions for his plantings to flourish by fertilizing, weeding, and

watering his seed. The plants emerge and his labor continues as he protects the field from pestilence and damage. Then a few weeks prior to harvest he is weary and gives up. All is for naught as he loses his entire crop because of his latter neglect. Or perhaps a storm threatened, he saw the warnings but neglected to respond, and the mistake cost him the ingathering. What a waste of time, money, labor, and resources only to falter at the moment of realization.”

Scripture repeatedly tells us to finish well. (*Matt. 10:22, 24:13, Mark 13:13, Heb. 3:14, Rev. 2:26*)

“We don’t want to merely obey God, we need to catch His heart. It is *THEN* we will glimpse the wisdom behind His directives, and not just see them as laws.”

“The simplest way to not lose what we’ve labored for is to develop patterns of consistently honoring God’s counsel. Each and every day we are presented with opportunity’s to make choices. The day will come when we will look back and know which were in face *life-defining*, but if we’ve developed Godly patterns we’ll continue to follow suit, and later realize our reward.”

B). REWARDS- “....*but that we may receive a full reward.*”

a). God is a rewarder. He loves to reward. (*Heb. 11:6*)

How did He introduce Himself to Abraham? (*Gen. 15:1, Ps. 19:9-11, Ps. 57:2*)

“God rewards those He is pleased with, which are those who heed His counsel.”

“Notice that John says, “*That we may receive a full reward.*” While I meditated, the word *full* jumped off the page. I thought, *If there’s a full reward, then there’s a partial reward, and even a no-reward scenario.*’ *2 Corinthians 5:9-10*

b.) Reward in this Life:

- 1). Godly Patterns carry the promise of reward at the Judgment Seat, but their blessing reaches us in this life as well. *1 Timothy 4:8*
- 2). “Our Father desires to reward us both then and now, as we heed His counsel. We are told, *Proverbs 13:21*

James is emphatic when he states, *James 1:16-17*

- 3). Good is from God. He is the giver of all that is good. *Proverbs 28:20*

The *rich reward* is the *full reward*!

2). Partial and no reward (chp. 2)

A). Partial Reward *Mark 6:5*

“He could do no mighty work there...” This is saying Jesus was restrained, not that He was withholding.

So, why was He restrained? The answer is found in this passage: *Mark 6:2-4*

“Often God will send us what we need in a package we don’t want. Why? To let us know He’s God and we can’t second guess Him. We cannot search for answers merely with our heads, we must seek Him and His provision with our hearts. Scripture cannot be interpreted from our limited human mental understanding. There must be a breath of the Spirit of God. He alone gives wise counsel and correct application.”

Jesus said that the people of Nazareth withheld honor from Him. These hometown folks didn’t treat Him as valuable and precious. Rather they saw an ordinary man, a common local boy, standing before them. Because of this they only received a partial reward.

Think of it, Jesus—The Son of God, the Son of Man filled with God’s Spirit without measure—is sent to heal the sick and all who were oppressed by the devil; but He cannot fulfill this commission, not because it wasn’t God’s will for all to be healed in that city, but because they restricted Him by withholding honor. They treated Him as a common local. Therefore they received a very small partial reward. (Just a few sick were healed).

They were looking for a great King, One who would be both supernaturally wise and a powerful conqueror. He would swiftly deliver them from Roman oppression, and establish them as a nation without equal. He would regain the throne of David, and reign forever and ever. But when Jesus came as one of their own, raised in their schools, laughing in their streets, building household furniture, and surrounded by mafia (tax collectors) and prostitutes, they were blindsided. They couldn’t grasp it. “Wait a minute,” they cried within and without, “this is not the way we expected the Messiah to come!” Remember, God will send us what we need in a package we don’t want!

A Stark Contrast: (Simeon) Luke 17:20-21

The Pharisees knew God not by their own hearts, but by their own reasoning. They were looking for a Messiah based on their mental interpretation of scripture, rather than relying on the Spirit of God's leading. ***Luke 2:25-28***

The summation of what Simeon spoke over Jesus was a declaration of this thirty-day-old baby as the Messiah. Now this is most interesting. Here is a man who recognized the Messiah when He was but a month old. Yet, all of Nazareth cannot recognize Him and the Pharisees mock Him when He is thirty something years of age, and performing signs and wonders no human being ever accomplished.

Why is this?

It is because God is Spirit, and those who would know Him and His ways ***must know Him by His Spirit*** who reveals truth ***Mark 6:4***

The key word here is **HONOR**.

The simplistic and literal definition of honor is “a valuing.” Other definitions of honor are *appreciation, esteem, favorable, regard, and respect.* ***Isaiah 29:13***

All *true* honor originates from the heart. True honor is an outflow from a heart that fears God. Since Jesus was not treated with honor, they only received a partial reward.

A No Reward Situation Luke 5:17-23

v.21- “The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves...”. In *Matthew 9:3*, in the same account it says they “*said within themselves.*”

Mark 2:6

They dishonored Jesus with their thoughts. They spoke within themselves in dishonor towards Jesus.

When the paralytic rose up, and was healed, “all were amazed and glorified God saying, ‘We never saw anything like this!’”

“They were all amazed but *NONE* of them were healed. They received *NO* reward because they dishonored Jesus merely *BY WAY OF THOUGHT.*”

“Remember, honor or dishonor can be displayed in deed, word, or thought, but all *true honor* originates from the heart.”

The Pharisees dishonored Jesus in thought and received *NO* reward.

A Full Reward Situation: Matthew 8:5-13

V.8-“Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof.”

This is the conqueror speaking to one of the conquered! Rome now occupied the nation of Israel. So why would this Roman Officer tell a Jewish Carpenter, “I am not worthy for you to enter my home?” This would be like Colonel in the United States Marines telling an Iraq plumber, “I’m not worthy to come to your house.” Do you see how this man honors Jesus? See the Roman Officer knows who this carpenter really is. He treats Jesus as really important and renders due respect.

He explained (in vs. 8-9) to Jesus how and why what he’d asked would work. He had the respect and obedience of his soldiers because he honored his commanding officer by submitting to

his authority. He enjoyed the backing of his superior officer, who, in turn, was backed by the authority of Rome. To simplify we could say, “I have authority because I honor my country and my superiors by respecting their authority. So all I have to do is speak a word and those under me respond immediately to my directives.

Notice his preface, “For I also.” He recognized the authority of God on Jesus, therefore this officer knew Jesus exercised authority in the unseen spiritual realm, just as he wielded authority in the military world. *Matthew 8:8-9*

Jesus’ Response to the Centurion’s Faith: **V.10**

Do you see this? Jesus announces this Roman officer had more faith than John the Baptist! More faith than Mary the mother of Jesus, John the Baptist, Mary, the twelve Disciples, and others Jesus had encountered. They probably knew more scripture than the Roman centurion.

Jesus never exaggerated!

BUT, *Heb.11:6; Rom. 10:17*

How was the centurion’s faith greater than all that Jesus had seen thus far? “It was the coupling of the honor he showed Jesus and his understanding of authority.” He had GREAT Faith. *Luke 17:5-10*

This scripture shows that it is not just hearing the Word of God that produces faith, but it must be supplemented with honor and compliance with authority.

Another example of persistent honor. *Mark 7:24-30*

“She knew who Jesus was and persistently honored Him, first by her tenacity and then not reviling or quitting even when it appeared as if she was insulted or dishonored. For her determination, she received a *full reward!*”

3). THE “HONOR PRINCIPLE”

A). Honoring Jesus honors God *1Samuel 2:30*

Honor is an essential key to receiving from heaven. “Those who honor God will be honored. That’s just the way it works. Everyone who honored Jesus, received from God in the proportion the honor was rendered. Think of it... not only were a servant and a daughter healed, but we are still celebrating their choices and faith today.” *John 13:20; John 5:23*

“Those who honored Jesus, were actually honoring the Father without knowing it. Jesus said : *John 5:41*

In His heart and mind it all went to the Father. He was not yet glorified. Once He was glorified decrees were made by the Father to the Son such as: *Hebrews 1:6; Hebrews 1:8*

Once glorified, He is worshipped as the Father is worshipped. “Yet while Jesus walked on the earth He lived and ministered as the *Son of Man.*”

the Amplified Bible states, *Phillipians 2:6-7*

So as a Man He continually passed all honor that was given Him along to the Father in His heart. This is why He continually addressed people. He healed with statements such as: *Matt. 8:4*

And again we read: Matt. 9:30

and similar references are found all over the Gospels.

Jesus was and is earth’s connection to the Father. Therefore, a tangible way to honor the Father is how we honor the Son.

Jesus never rebuked those that honored Him, but praised them for making the *connection* with the Father.

B). HONORING PARENTS

“After seven years in a local church, and almost twenty years of traveling ministry, I’ve observed the greatest need for honor isn’t the church, or the workplace, but rather in our homes. The truth is, social, civil, and church arenas would all greatly benefit if fathers and mothers exemplified honor in the homes because it could not help but spill over to those who surround us.”

Ephesians 6:2-3

“To honor our parents is not a suggestion, nor a recommendation; rather it’s a commandment. Have some forgotten we’re to keep the commandments of God as New Testament believers? It’s evidence the love of God truly abides in us. Jesus says, *John 14:21*

John the apostle confirms by writing, *2 John 6*

The meaning of **HONOR**: to value, to esteem, to respect, to treat favorably, to have high regard for.

“In viewing our parents through the eyes of honor we will communicate with them in respect and love. Recall, honor can be displayed in deed, word, and even thought, but all true honor originates from the heart. So if young men or women speak in flippant, careless, or irreverent way on a regular basis to their parents, they are displaying outwardly their lack of true honor for their parents. *Matthew 12:13*

Their dishonor can also be displayed by their behavior, such as by the tone of voice, rolling eyes, disgusted look, dragging feet to carry out a request, complaining, and so forth.” *Deut.27:16*

DISHONOR: to treat as common, ordinary, or menial. A stronger version of it is to treat shamefully, or to humiliate.

“God tell us to honor our father and mother, regardless of how good or bad they are in our eyes, or how honorable or dishonorable their behavior is.”

Gen 9:18-28 (Read in class)

“We’re to always honor and submit to authority; we’re to obey authority as well; however, in regard to obedience, we’re not to obey an authority if they order us to do something contrary to the Word of God.”

Discussion Questions:

1. Where does honor begin?
2. Explain partial reward.
3. Explain full reward.
4. Explain No reward.

THIS WEEK’S BIBLE READING: ***1st, 2nd, 3rd John & Jude***

Use the Epistle Study tool and a Daily Journal as you read. The next session will come from a portion of this book. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment:

