

1. Honour, and it's Rewards

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Sub-title: Restoring Honour

Malachi 1:6 (NKJV) *A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am the Father, where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is My reverence? Says the Lord of hosts to you priests who despise My name...*

On Sunday 9 June we had a guest minister in the house, who ministered on the subject of (dis)honour.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sV5hcQxT8BA>

Summary of the message:

- There is one sin that holds people back from experiencing God's best
- The same sin makes it difficult for people to access the presence, provision or protection of God
- That is the sin of dis-honour
- Although God has already given us all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3), people who walk in dishonour are not be able to access these things (easily)
- Walking in honour gives access to God's presence & provision (Entry)
- Walking in dishonour bars access to God's presence & provision (Exit)
- Every person's destiny is tied to the way they honour or dishonour others

1. In Malachi 1:6, God speaks about Honour in three Specific Areas:

- Honour in the Family
- Honour in the place of Employment & Business
- Honour towards God

2. Sacrifices and Offerings are primarily an Honour Issue

Isaiah 43:20–23 (NKJV) *The beast of the field will honor Me, the jackals and the ostriches, because I give waters in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to give drink to My people, My chosen. 21 This people I have formed for Myself; they shall declare My praise. 22 "But you have not called upon Me, O Jacob; and you have been weary of Me, O Israel. 23 You have not brought Me the sheep for your burnt offerings, nor have you honored Me with your sacrifices ...*

- God says to Israel:
 - The beast of the field honour me because of the things I provide
 - But you, Israel, even though I provide for you, you don't honour me
- Vs. 23 You have not brought Me the sheep for your burnt offerings, nor have you honored Me with your sacrifices ...
- **Sacrifices and offerings are an honour issue**
- Each time we offer our sacrifice of praise, we honour God (Heb. 13:15)
- Every time we bring an offering to God, we honour God (Prov. 3:9)

3. When we honour God with worship & offerings, it creates a sweet aroma in the realm of the spirit

Genesis 8:20–21 (NKJV) *Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and **offered burnt offerings on the altar. 21 And the Lord smelled a soothing aroma. Then the Lord said** in His heart, “I will never again curse the ground for man’s sake, although the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.*

- After the flood, Noah honoured God by offered burnt offerings to Him
- God smelled the soothing aroma of the offering (sweet-smelling)
- Then God resolved in His heart to never again bring certain judgments
- Instead, He promised that seedtime and harvest would continue (vs. 22)
- Gen. 9:1. And God blessed Noah and his sons ...
- Notice the sequence - Honour brings the blessing of God into our lives

4. Dishonour creates a repugnant stench in the realm of the spirit

Testimony of the beginnings of our church in January 1989

- We held our first church services at the Moera Community Hall
- We used that Council-owned Community Hall until mid-2000 when we purchased the first of our current buildings in High Street
- Unbeknown to us, there had been another church operating out of the Moera Community Hall meeting prior to us arriving there in 1989
- That church was in revival in its day, but because of a leadership coup, the appointed pastor of the church was toppled, and the church imploded
- Rebellion & resistance against God-ordained church leaders is dishonour, every time
- Dishonour of any kind leaves a stench in the realm of the spirit:
 - Over a specific geography

- Over a certain individual or a specific family
- Over a company or organization
- Over a government and the nation it governs
- Etc.

Testimony of purchasing 445 (& 455) High Street

- We purchased our first church property in the year 2000
- Prior to us purchasing our current property at 445 High Street, we became aware that another church had previously leased the building
- Sadly, the leader of that church had a moral failure & abandoned the church, which went into decline
- The key people of the church did their best to maintain the church's financial obligations (lease, rent, etc.), but despite their efforts, they were unable to maintain the lease of the building & keep up with the associated obligations
- When we met the owner of the building, to say the least, he had no remaining trust in churches (or pastors) at all, including ourselves
- Great dishonour had been committed against him & it took considerable effort on our part to convince him that we were not the same as the leader of the church that had leased the building before we bought it

Considering these two sad stories about dishonour, it would be fair to say that at least on these two occasions, God used this house, and its leadership, to restore honour in places (geographies) where great dishonour had been committed

5. The Result of a single Act of Dishonour can be disastrous on Future Generations

Genesis 9:18–23 (NKJV) *Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And Ham was the father of Canaan. 19 These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated. 20 And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard. 21 Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent. 22 And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. 23 But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness.*

- Noah, his sons & their wives survived the world-wide flood in the ark
- After the flood, Noah became a farmer and planted a vineyard

- He drank of the wine, got drunk and became uncovered in his tent
- His son Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers
- But his two brothers, Shem & Japheth, took a garment, laid it on their shoulders & went backward & covered the nakedness of their father
- They turned their faces away & did not see their father's nakedness
- Ham had committed a great dishonour against His father by gleefully telling his brothers about their father's nakedness
- Conversely, his brothers, Shem & Japheth, acted in great honour by covered their fathers nakedness

Proverbs 11:13 (NKJV) *A talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.*

Genesis 9:24–27 (NKJV) *So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him. 25 Then he said: “**Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants He shall be to his brethren.” 26 And he said: “Blessed be the Lord, the God of **Shem**, and may **Canaan be his servant.** 27 **May God enlarge Japheth**, and may he dwell in the tents of Shem; **and may Canaan be his servant.**”***

- Because of his act of dishonour, Ham ended up with a curse on his life and on his family and on his future descendants
- Ham's son Canaan became the father of the Canaanites (7 Nations) who were dispossessed by the Israelites when they came out of Egypt
- Those Canaanites who weren't killed ended up becoming slaves to the Israelites
- Shem & Japheth ended up getting blessed because they chose to walk in honour instead
- The Israelites came through the lineage of Shem, through whom God brought His Son, Jesus Christ the Messiah/Saviour into the world
- (the words “Semite” and “Semitism” come from the name “Shem”)
- Japheth became the father of the European nations who spread out all over the world

Summary Statements:

- If Ham had repented of his dishonour, he and his descendants could have been blessed
- Shem & Japheth restored honour in this situation, and ended up walking in the blessing of God for their lives and their descendants