

# Honour the House

19 - Ephesians: Rise Up & Walk  
Church on the Park | Sunday, 11 NOV 2018

**Text:** Ephesians 3:1-13

**Theme:** God wants to bring a great harvest into his house, but first his house must be in order.

**Intro:** Last week we talked about stewardship and guarding God's house. I gave a general call to honour God's house. Today, I want to go into more detail. What does it specifically look like to honour God's house? But first, what does it mean to honour?

## 1) To honour means to give weight, importance and value (Lev. 10:3).

- If you **honour someone** you give them **weight, importance and value**. And, if you **honour something** you give it **weight, importance and value**.
- When you honour something or someone you give them **time, attention, energy, resources and finances**.
  - The **Hebrew** word for honour is כָּבֵד (*kavad*), meaning "to be heavy, weighty...the figurative being more common."
- To **dishonour** is to treat someone or something as **light, unimportant and lacking value**.
  - When you dishonour something or someone you **neglect to give them time, attention, energy and money**. You **devalue**, rather than **value**.
- I mention all this because **our culture has forgotten what honour is and how to honour**.
  - And sadly, **we honour things that God does not honour**, and we dishonour things God honours.
    - "And he [Jesus] said to them, 'You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God'" (**Luke 16:15**, NASB).
- The Scripture teaches us to: 1) Honour **your father and your mother** (Exo. 20:12), 2) Honour the **Lord** (Lev. 10:3), 3) Honour the **aged** (Lev. 19:32), 4) Honour the **name of the Lord** (Deu. 28:58), 5) Honour **God above your children** (1 Sam. 2:19) 6) Honour **God with your wealth and firstfruits** (Prov. 3:9), 7) Honour God with **your heart, not just our lips** (Isa. 29:13), 8) Honour the **Sabbath** (Isa. 58:13), 9) Honour **God with the best** (Mal. 1), 9) Honour **the Son, Jesus**, just as you would honour the Father (John 5:23), 10) Honour **one another** (Rom. 12:10), 11) Honour those **to whom honour is due** (Rom. 13:7), 12) Honour **yourself** as **God's vessel** (1 Thes. 4:4), 13) Honour **widows** who are **widows indeed** (1 Tim. 5:3), 14) Give **double honour** to God's leaders who **preach and teach** well (1 Tim. 5:7), 15) Honour **your masters or bosses** (1 Tim. 6:1), 16) Honour **marriage and the marriage bed** (Heb. 13:4), 17) Honour **all people** (1 Pet. 2:17), 18) Honour the **king** (1 Pet. 2:17) 19) Honour **your wife** (1 Pet. 3:7), 20) Honour **God's house** above your own (Hag. 1).

## 2) Honour God's house above your own (Haggai 1:9).

- First, we must realise from Ephesians that **God's house is his people, his church** (Eph. 2:19-22).
- Let me paint the **picture of Haggai 1**, and then let's read Haggai 1
  - The people of God had been **captive in Babylon** and because of their captivity they have been **without God's house for about seventy years**.
  - God was moving and released them from captivity. Now, they are returning back to their homeland.
    - At this time, they are called to rebuild God's house. They **begin**, but **don't complete** the work.
  - Yet, instead of restoring God's house, they get **caught up with their own houses**.
    - **Consequently**, even their **own houses don't do very good**.
    - Why? Because they are **neglecting God's house**.
- Haggai teaches us an important **lesson: to honour God's house is to honour God**.

- You **cannot separate** the two. Like **marriage**, they are **joined together**.
- Here you need to be **careful**. I am **not saying put your ministry first**. Neither am I saying to **sacrifice your family** on the altar of good works.
- When you put God's Kingdom and house **above** your own, your own **family** will be **blessed**.
- Treating God's house and ministry **lightly** is a **death sentence** (spiritually or even physically). Look at **Nadab and Abihu, Korah, and Ananias and Sapphira**.
- All throughout Scripture we learn that if you put God and his house first, he will honour your house (1 Sam. 2:30). But if you don't honour God and his house, it will not go well with your house.

### 3) What does honouring God's house look like?

#### 1. Honour God's house by being faithful to gather together (Heb. 10:24-25)

- Even the **early church** had an issues with God's people not taking gathering together seriously. The writer of **Hebrews** had to address it.
  - They were getting into **bad customs and habits** (*ethos*). The very **ethos** of the church was changing. They started to see church as an **optional extra**, rather than **essential** to being a disciple.
    - Before we begin, we are **not talking** about those who are **too sick to gather**. Our call is to bring God to them, to visit them and show love. And it can't just be the pastors, it's got to be the whole body.
  - Again, *what does it look like to be faithful to gathering together?*
- **1 - Be consistent** in attending the main meeting of your church
  - Make it your first priority.
- **2 - Be early** (Exo. 24:4; Gen. 22:3, etc.)
  - Being early will mean you are in the right frame of mind.
  - It will also mean you can **be helpful and prayerful**.
- **3 - Be engaged** - in worship, in prayer, in taking notes, in concern for one another.
- **4 - Be prepared** - get your heart ready before you come.
  - Start preparing the day before.
  - Being a disciple of Christ is a whole new way of life.
- **5 - Be helpful** - when you see a need, pitch in and help, rather than complain.
- **\*\*When you live like this you are saying with your life**, "This meeting is serious and important. It's important because I am meeting with God. It's also important because I'm a part of the body of Christ and my brothers and sisters need me. What we are doing here is a witness to the community. I value worship. I value fellowship and I value the Word of God. It's not a trivial or light thing. Jesus died to give me these gifts and I must be a good steward of them."
- When you live like this you are also **setting the culture** of your church community.
  - If you set a bad example, our church culture will be slack. It will reflect dishonour rather than honour.
  - Again if you **set a bad example**, the new disciples and visitors will also **follow** you.
  - The **quality** of church will become **less, rather than more**.
  - More than anything, **Jesus' heart will be in pain**, because his blood is crying out that he died for much more than this.
- **His church is meant to be filled with fire, power and love.**
  - But this only happens as we **get the simple and little things right**.
- "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much" (Luke 16:10).

To be continued...

**Conclusion:** Honouring God's house looks like something tangible. And when you honour God's house, God honours you.