

Introduction:

- Theme: You honor the Word, and the Word will honor you.
- 1 Kings 3:10-14

I. Called To Honor The Word

- A. As believers we are called to honor the Word of God. What does that mean?
1. Honor - to esteem, to give great respect, to have high estimation of.
 2. When we esteem the Word of God in our lives we seek it. We treasure it. We give it place in our hearts and minds.
 3. Honoring the Word is not something that just happens. It happens because we value the Word. We seek its/His worth. We have the revelation of its power and influence in our lives.
 4. The Word saved me when I trusted it.
 - a) *"The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone."* (John 1:4, NLT)
 - b) The Word became flesh, Jesus, our Passover Lamb. All who believe this and accept Him he gives the right to become children of God.
 5. So we must make room for the Word in our lives.
- B. Jehoshaphat honored the Word. How do we know this?
1. Jehoshaphat followed his father's example when he was walking close to God. 2 Chron 17:3
 2. Jehoshaphat did not worship idols but sought his father's God. 17:4.
 3. Jehoshaphat got rid of the high places where pagan altar were. 17:6
 4. Jehoshaphat was deeply committed to the ways of the Lord. 17:6 He removed pagan things from Judah.
 5. Jehoshaphat sent his officials to all the towns of Judah to teaching the people the Word of God. 17:7. Not only did Jehoshaphat seek the Lord of the Word but he made sure that his people were taught the Word.
 6. Jehoshaphat wanted to hear God. 18:6 He was always looking to hear from God's SENT prophets. Micaiah 18:6; Jehu 19:2; Jahaziel 20:14. He knew the voice of God. He could discern between false prophets and real prophets of God.
 7. Jehoshaphat was simply doing Mt 6:33 Seeking first the Kingdom of God... and all these other things were being added like: established authority, wealth, safe borders.
- C. Jesus honored the Word
1. In His walk with God. He told John the Baptist to baptize him in response to the Word. Mt. 3:15. *"We must carry out all that God requires."*

2. In His spiritual warfare. "But Jesus told him, *"No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"* (Matthew 4:4, NLT)
 - a) It is in the tests of life that we are given opportunity to honor the Word. Mt 4:4 comes from Dt. 8:3 *"Yes, he humbled you by letting you go hungry and then feeding you with manna, a food previously unknown to you and your ancestors. He did it to teach you that people do not live by bread alone; rather, we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord."* (Deuteronomy 8:3, NLT)
 - b) Will we believe the Word in the day of trial/testing?

II. Called To Be Changed By The Word

- A. The Word will change your circumstances but first it must change you.
 1. When you honor the Word you let it get into your daily living.
 2. When you honor the Word you let it get into your relationships.
 3. When you honor the Word it literally becomes the very foundation that you life is built upon.
 4. How do I know if I am honoring the Word? Mt 6:21 Where your treasure is there your heart will be.
- B. The Word as foundation! Everything else rests upon that.
 1. *"Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock."* (Matthew 7:24, NLT)
 2. Wise comes from greek word that implies a 'Fear of the Lord' is foundational to wisdom.
 3. The Psalms and Proverbs are full of the statement, "The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom." Jehoshaphat walked in the fear of the Lord. If you do not have a fear of the Lord you will not be a person of the Word. If you do not have a fear of the Lord you will not have honor for the Word. If you esteem it, you seek it, devour it, live it.
- C. To know the Word is to know Christ. Let go back a few verses: Mt 7:21-23.
 1. Not everyone who says, Lord, Lord will enter the Kingdom of Heaven.
 2. Only those who do my will...therefore we have to know the Word to do that.
 3. Only those who know me...therefore we have to know the Word to know what He is like.
 4. And it is in the testing that we trust the Word and the Word proves Himself to be true!
 - a) *"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that*

his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters." (Romans 8:28-29, NLT)

- b) There is more than just hearing the Word. We must also be doers of the Word.
- c) Note to self: The wicked are without the Word and the righteous are with the Word, in fact it is the very foundation of their lives.

III. The Word Is The Change Agent

- A. The Word is Spirit and it is life! *"The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life."* (John 6:63, NLT)
 - 1. It is the Spirit and Life that overcome Bondage and death. Spirit and Life are change agents.
- B. The Word is light.
 - 1. *"Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."* (Psalm 119:105, NLT)
 - 2. Light drives out darkness. It is a change agent.
- C. The Word is a sword. Eph 6:17 take up the sword of the Spirit. The Word is a weapon in the arsenal of the Christian. It brings change! It is a change agent.
 - 1. *"He sent out his word and healed them, snatching them from the door of death."* (Psalm 107:20, NLT)
 - 2. *"It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it."* (Isaiah 55:11, NLT)
 - 3. *"But the officer said, 'Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed.'"* (Matthew 8:8, NLT)
- D. When we honor the Word the Word will honor us!
 - 1. *"Elisha replied, 'As surely as the Lord Almighty lives, whom I serve, I wouldn't even bother with you except for my respect for King Jehoshaphat of Judah.'"* (2 Kings 3:14, NLT)
 - a) Jehoshaphat was looking for the Word of the Lord. He honored Gods Word.
 - b) With this Elisha begins to prophesy what they are to do.
 - 2. Elisha respected the King Jehoshaphat. He esteemed him because Jehoshaphat esteemed the Word. It was for this reason the Word worked on behalf of Jehoshaphat and not for Jehoram.
 - 3. It was God's mercy that Jehoram and the King of Edom escape. They were given one more chance to turn to God.