

Introduction:

- We are going to look at ‘honoring’ from God’s word this morning. Honor is key in the operation of the Kingdom of God on earth. With today being Mother’s Day, I thought I would attempt to ‘unpack’ honor for us as it relates to Kingdom access and our mothers. Two scriptures:
 - OT: *“Honor your father and mother, as the Lord your God commanded you. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you.”* (Deuteronomy 5:16, NLT)
 - NT: *“Honor your father and mother.” This is the first commandment with a promise: If you honor your father and mother, “things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.”* (Ephesians 6:2-3, NLT)
- A Calvin & Hobbes comic strip. For those of you not familiar with this comic, Calvin is a 7-year old (Dennis the Menace) and Hobbes is his stuffed tiger that is actually alive to him. Anyway, for Mother’s Day, Calvin is standing by his mother’s bed when he says *“Hey, Mom! Wake up. I made you a Mother’s Day card.”* His mother was very pleased and started to read the card out loud as Calvin stood there smiling. *This is what the card said: “I was going to buy a card with hearts of pink and red. But then I thought I’d rather, spend the money on me instead. It’s awfully hard to buy things when one’s allowance is so small. So I guess you’re plenty lucky I got you anything at all. Happy Mother’s Day. There, I’ve said it, now I’m done. So how about getting out of bed and fixing breakfast for your son.”* Now Calvin had the right idea in deciding to give her “a” card, but being true to form, his natural instinct to be self-absorbed took over and the results ended in what was written in the card. So may times we are like Calvin, so self-absorbed that we cannot appreciate others, especially our mothers who made/makes sacrifices for us daily.

I. Some Things About Honor**A. Defining Honor -**

1. Honor comes from the Greek word τιμη (time) and means “worth, value, price”.
2. Similarly, *timao* means “to value, honor, or to be deemed worthy of honor.” Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* (p. 1181). To show respect. Give recognition.
3. To ascribe worth, to prize, to hold in awe. The word Paul uses in Eph 6:2 meant to place a price on something or someone and to prize it as a result of assigning that value.
4. IE. “Think about it. People do not store gold in their junk drawer. They do not put their gold with their costume jewelry. No, real gold gets put in a place of honor, because of its value. It is appreciated more, favored more, given higher respect, therefore a greater place.

5. To further clarify honor look at its opposite: To dishonor means to show no respect or value for: Grk. *atimia*.
- B. All true honor originates from the heart.
1. Honor can be demonstrated in action, word and thoughts. But watch this...you can have actions, words, and thoughts and not be honoring.
 2. *"And so the Lord says, "These people say they are mine. They honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. And their worship of me is nothing but man-made rules learned by rote."* (Isaiah 29:13, NLT) NKJV says in the last part of that scripture, *"their fear toward me is nothing but rules"* Again, all true honor flows from the heart.
 3. Let me show you from scripture how the Kingdom operates concerning honor. *"Then Jesus told them, "A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his relatives and his own family.""* (Mark 6:4, NLT)
 - a) The 'home team' did not value Jesus and consider Him precious. They put Him in the junk drawer with all the other costume jewelry. They saw Him as everyone else—just another person in town. Therefore they only received a partial reward of a few healings and no miracles (vs 5).
 - b) Because they did not honor Him, (they were too familiar with Him), they restricted Him. He came 'to do some stuff' in His home town but could not.
 4. Let's look at the 'flip side of this'. *"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) 'not worthy' This is the conquering Roman speaking to the conquered Jew.
 - a) The man is hugely honoring Jesus! He is ascribing worth and value to Jesus. He is assigning Him a place of honor. Because he honors Jesus, his servant is healed.
 - b) Jesus declares, "I have not seen such faith in all of Israel!" What happened?
 - (1) The man honored the authority (both position and power) of Jesus.
 - (2) He joined that honor with faith and received a great reward and incredible affirmation from Jesus. And this man was a gentile!
 - (3) As Tim Keller says, "it's respect for parents that is the basis for every other kind of respect and every other kind of authority."
- C. Honor is an essential key to receiving from heaven. *"... I will honor those who honor me, and I will despise those who think lightly of me."* (1 Samuel 2:30, NLT)
1. If you honor God he will honor you.
 2. Everyone who honored Jesus received from God what had been promised.
 3. Mark 14:4-5 the disciples are upset that the woman pours a whole bottle of precious oil on the head of Jesus. But the woman is forever praised because of

the depth of her honor of Jesus. She honored Jesus and Jesus has forever honored her.

II. Honoring Our Mothers

- A. Honoring our parents is a command. It is not a suggestion. Today on this man-made holiday we are honoring our mothers. But in God's economy, honoring our mothers is an everyday thing! It is a command, not a suggestion or recommendation.
1. Jesus said that if we love Him we will keep His commands. Again, honor flows from the heart. You can keep the command and not love Jesus. It makes you a Pharisee. But if you love Jesus keeping the command is a thing of honor... obedience from the heart. An outflow of honor from the heart.
 2. Dishonoring of parents is now a normal way of life in America. IE. Sitcoms blatantly dishonor parents, undermine their authority, and pervert solid family structure by placing children above their parents. Children (any age) carelessly and irreverently speak about their parent on a regular basis and openly dishonor them. Through words, tone of voice, rolling of the eyes, show of disgust, 'flipping them off,' etc.
 3. Let's go back to the Word. *"Cursed is anyone who dishonors father or mother.' And all the people will reply, 'Amen.'"* (Deuteronomy 27:16, NLT)
 - a) Cursed. There are six Hebrew words for curse and they all have a significant meaning. The one used here means: "to snare, to bind" and the noun *irritu* "noose, sling" Hamilton, V. P. (1999). 168 אָרַר. R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 75). Chicago: Moody Press. Bound, hung is the man who dishonors his parents.
 - b) "Hebrew 'ārar means "to bind (with a spell), hem in with obstacles, render powerless to resist."
 - c) Thus the original curse in Gen 3:14, 17, *"cursed are you above all cattle"* and *"cursed is the ground for your sake"* means "you are banned/anathematized from all the other animals" and "condemned be the soil (i.e., fertility to men is banned) on your account." Similarly, God's word to Cain, *"you are cursed from the earth"* means Cain is banned from the soil, or more specifically, he is banned from enjoying its productivity." TWOT We expect the thief to be cursed. The murderer cursed. The immoral cursed. But it is quite clear God's feeling about those who dishonor parents is the same as with the thief, murderer and immoral...cursed.
 - d) Are you starting to see the values of the promise associated with the command to honor your parents. ***God wants us to see the power of covenant at work in the family relationship so as to demonstrate to the world how covenant with God works.

- (1) If children did not honor their parents and were rebellious and self-centered, they would not learn about the covenant relationship with God which had been so central to the lives of their parents.
- (2) And as a consequence of dishonoring their parents, they would not prosper in the promised land, for they would not know intimately the Lord of the covenant promise.
- B. How can we honor our mothers? It takes thought, prayer, creativity. We honor them by how we treat them as well as how we live our own lives. Paul is speaking to that part of our nature that is selfish and self-centered, not the goodness. Remember Calvin and the card that he gave to his mother.
1. We honor by what we say. How do you speak about your parents? Do you shame them behind their back. Talk about them in dishonoring ways. IE. In church we don't do this...we share prayer requests. ***Speak well and esteem her publicly and in private.***
 2. We honor by what we do. Do you assist them when possible? Do you look out for them and their interests. Do you call them weekly to speak to them?
 - a) Some of my greatest regrets are around those times in my younger years when I failed to show the kind of honor for my parents that God desired from me. In my youthful arrogance, I was a little too quick to criticize, missed chances to share life in a more meaningful way, and just did not realize how important our parents were!
 - b) Spend time with her on her agenda not yours. IE. My dad visited my grandmother weekly sitting and having coffee with her. I still remember his going and her gratitude.
 - c) A hand written letter is powerful, especially when done with love.
 3. We honor by what we think. Let love be the driving force. If you do that you will be forgiving, gracious, kind, and honoring.
 4. We honor by choosing to value our relationship with our mother.
 5. We honor when we take the initiative to make the relationship better.
 6. We honor when we recognize what she has done right for us.
 7. We honor when we acknowledge/note the sacrifices she has made.
 8. We honor when we praise her for the legacy she has passed along to you.
 9. We honor our mothers when we see them through the eyes of Christ, with understanding and compassion.
 10. We honor when, if need be, we forgive her, just as Christ has forgiven us..

III. Reaping the Promises

- A. Go well

1. Go - Greek - γενηται - To become. It derives from the word, *γενεσις* (*genesis*) = what has come into being...life! Off-spring
 2. Well - Greek - eu - pertaining to events which measure up to their intended purpose—'fine, well, good, excellent, well done" Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 622). New York: United Bible Societies.
- B. Long Life
1. εμι - you will have, to possess or hold, to be.
 2. μακροχρονιος - makrochronios - great in chronological time. A long span of chronological time.
- C. So the promise is a continual genesis of 'life' over a very long period of time! All because we assign mom a more appreciated, esteemed, favored valuable place in our heart.
1. It is the first command with a promise.
 2. It is about esteeming relationship.
 3. It is about letting the world see how the Kingdom operates and the favor that is generated in our life from doing one simple thing.

Conclusion:

- People do not store gold in their junk drawer. If your mother has been assigned that place, take her out today. Be grateful, be thankful, and show her how much she is worth by the depth of your honor...not just today...but everyday.
- **Finally, a great way to honor your parents is by writing and presenting a tribute.** Within the next couple of weeks, sit down for an extended period of time and write out a tribute. List the things you appreciate about your parents; the way they have provided for you, cared for you, or showed love to you over the years. Include the traits you admire about them. Is your father a hard worker? Is your mother hospitable? Is she a great cook? Does your father have a wonderful smile? Your tribute doesn't have to be long; what matters most is that your words flow from your heart. When you're finished, type it and have it professionally framed.