



CHURCH-IN-THE-HOUSE EDIFICATION MATERIAL FOR JULY, 2011

THEME: **EXAMINING OUR YEAR OF HONOUR**
TOPIC: **THE PRINCIPLE AND POWER OF HONOUR 2**
TEXT: **I SAM. 2:26-30**

Introduction:

Last month, we examined the principle of honour- vertical and horizontal, as honour towards God and man respectively. In honouring God, we need to trust and love Him and invariably desire to please Him always. In addition, we are mandated to honour all men, as in both cases, 'the measure of honour given is the measure of honour received.' Practical illustrations were done with bible characters like Daniel, Joseph, etc. Our preoccupation today would be to relate all these to the Power of Honour.

Power of Honour

Like an 'off' & 'on' switch, the power of honour can be activated or deactivated. Consequently, our honour is a function of our personality. The honour you give brings:

- i. Solutions to problems (David vs. the Egyptian servant of an Amalekite)
- ii. Answers to prayers (Hannah vs. Eli) I Sam 1: 8 – 18
- iii. Miracles you long-for (the Centurion Vs. Jesus) Luke 7: 1 – 10, Mat 8: 5 - 13

With our attitude, we can spur or limit the impossible-to-limit God. We need to understand the **flow of authority to switch the power on-** Luke 7:1-10. Lessons from here include:

- i. He **heard** (faith comes by hearing) about Jesus and he believed
- ii. Sent **elders** (not mere men) to Jesus and they came **pleading** (v.3) and Vs.4 says they earnestly begged.
- iii. The elders testify of the Centurion that he **trusts, loves** and **desire to please God**, honouring God by building a synagogue long before he sought this miracle. He **recognises** the grace upon Jesus and was **humble**, understanding the flow of authority. He described himself as a man **placed under authority**

Another example can be found in the Syrophenician woman- Mark 7:24-30:

- i. The woman being a gentile overcame guilty-conscience and humbly approached Jesus
- ii. Jesus tried her faith but she persistently demonstrated trust, love and desire to please Him
- iii. Jesus further categorised her as dog, deserving not to be loved, but she picked no offence (humility) but sought grace

What about those that **turned off** the power of honour:

- i. Mark 6:1-5. Familiarity brings contempt. Once you are offended at the grace in someone's life, you cannot benefit from the power of that grace. We need to dwell in the Spirit to appropriate the power that is meant to bestow us honour.
- ii. Luke 5:17-26. Insensitivity to the power to heal. True honour comes from the heart. Honour and dishonour can be displayed without expressing it (they were reasoning in their heart). With just body language, God can be deterred from acting as He would have loved to.

Consequence of operating in Honour (remember Jabez?)

- i. Your life will delight and glorify God
- ii. Long life and prosperity- Ex. 20:12, Job22:8
- iii. It will distinguish you from the pack, even when others are outstanding, you will stand-out
- iv. It will grant you access to the corridors of power (Prov.22:11 & 29)
- v. Grace to demand and receive what others cannot get (Prov.22:4 & 29)

Conclusion:

Mark.14:32-42, 50, 15:40-47. When others flee at the emergence of storm, honourable men will stand. Courage is essential even in our quest to honour God as you may have to pay a great price- Heb.12:2

Whatever takes you up (in honour) will sustain you there- Lam.5:16. Honour could be transient (Ps.49:12 & 20). Take heed, lest you fall.

Prayer:

Keep me true Lord Jesus to finish the race and to obtain the prize.