

# Made to Honor

## Why God Became Man--part 3

December 14, 2014

### **DAY 1: Living for self or living for God?**

1. Let's review. Why did God become man? Jesus came to earth to love and remake mankind.  
Week 1: Made Alive; Week 2: Made Right.

2. This week? Made to Honor.

3. Most of John 17 is Jesus praying before His arrest. He begins by thinking back upon His mission on earth...

*John 17:4 "I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do."*

4. In the final analysis, we either live for ourselves (and our interests) or for God and His interests. Which of these was Jesus doing?

5. At the end of this verse Jesus highlights that He accomplished "the work you gave me to do."

Think about the things we do with the work God gives us to do. Place a check next to how you typically respond to the work God gives you to do:

☐ I'll do it if it's convenient.

☐ I'll do it if there is nothing else to do.

☐ I can't do anything "extra" right now. I'm just too busy.

☐ I'll try to do something as long as I don't have to stretch myself too far.

☐ Did I sign up for *that*?!?! Ugh!

☐ I'll "gladly" serve as long as I don't have to commit to anything.

☐ I'll "gladly" serve as long as I don't have to make a longer term commitment to serve.

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Look back at the possible answers in question #5. What are some of the real motivators behind those statements?

7. Which ones resonated with you the most? Do you have some confession of sin to do?

## **DAY 2: Honoring God**

*John 17:4 "I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do."*

1. Yesterday we focused on what Jesus did--giving Himself to the work God gave Him to do, instead of just focusing on what He wanted to do.

2. Today, we'll unpack what drove Him to live for God.

3. Reread John 17:4.

4. *"I glorified you on earth..."* What do you think Jesus means by glorifying God?

5. The opposite of glorifying someone else is boasting about oneself.

*Jeremiah 45:5 And do you seek great things for yourself? Seek them not...*

6. Why shouldn't we seek great thing for ourselves as our primary motivation?

7. When we were kids, we wanted to make our father proud of us. My father reminded me, "You are a Gatchell. Live like one." At first I really didn't know what he meant. Then I began to realize that my name was something I was to honor. I was not to sully my name. To sully my name was to sully the reputation of all the members of my family.

a. What strikes you about sully the name of the Lord? What consequences come to mind?

b. On the other hand, why do you think the motivation to please our father, and please God is so strong?

c. What is it like when you know that what you were doing is pleasing God?

### **DAY 3: Honoring God as a "first thing"**

*John 15:8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples.*

*John 15:20 Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also.*

1. Our daily "autopilot" way of living IS to enter the day's activities putting ourselves first. We have to remind ourselves that our calling is to live for the honor of God, first. Fundamentally, these are the only real approaches to life.

2. When difficulties and trials come tumbling in to your life, the difference between those two approaches becomes very apparent.

Either we will (1) dedicate our greatest energies to overcoming our trials so that we can be fulfilled again, or (2) be more concerned to trust God in the midst of our trials so as to better reflect His glory and serve His purposes.

3. What strikes you about this second approach to life?

4. In John 15, Jesus is teaching the disciples about living in a fallen world. Near the end of the chapter He warns them that persecution and trials await them.

5. At the beginning of John 15, He tells them that they are like branches in a great vine. The vine is Jesus. As long as the branches remain in the vine, the life of God can course through them. This will be vitally important in the midst of trials.

6. Reread John 15:8. When trials do strike, what does Jesus say should drive us through those trials? What are we called to do *in the midst of trials*?

7. Think about your current life. Are you focused more on trying to get the life you desire or on revealing God's glory through whatever is happening in your circumstances?

8. Tell God (and a friend), what you *long* to see Him do *in your heart* in the midst of your current circumstances.

#### **DAY 4: Sin dishonors God and you**

*John 8:49 "I am not possessed by a demon," said Jesus, "but I honor my Father and you dishonor me.*

1. Jesus was teaching the people when He was confronted by the Pharisees, the Jewish religious leaders of the day. They hated Jesus, and tried to publicly malign Him, accusing Him of being demon-possessed.

2. Instead of getting angry or retaliating, He tells them what's really going on with Himself and with them. What does He say they are doing?

3. Sin dishonors God and it brings dishonor to ourselves, as in the case with the Pharisees. (They can't see how they do bring dishonor on God or themselves).

4. Jesus told them: *"but I honor my Father..."*

a. This is the center point of His heart, and His core purpose.

b. On a scale of 1-100, how central is it to honor God by the way you live? \_\_\_\_\_

c. Why did you pick the number you picked?

d. In what arena of your life could you shore up the honor of God?

\_\_\_ Your words

\_\_\_ Your actions

\_\_\_ Your thoughts

\_\_\_ Certain relationships

\_\_\_ How you treat someone

\_\_\_ Trusting God vs. fear, worry, etc.

\_\_\_ Serving, sacrificing for others

\_\_\_ Your attitude

\_\_\_ Work

e. What would you need to do to raise your 1-100 number higher?

## **DAY 5: Honoring God because He is worthy of honor**

### 1. Honoring God

- \_\_\_ Is the right thing to do because He is worthy of honor.
- \_\_\_ "Centers" our hearts.
- \_\_\_ Reminds us of what's most important
- \_\_\_ Puts "self" in its proper place, as a grateful servant of God.
- \_\_\_ Gives us opportunities to reflect His wonder to the people around us by how we relate and how we live.
- \_\_\_ Is vital to our own satisfaction. When we are in right relationship with God, our sense of satisfaction and contentment in Him is heightened.
- \_\_\_ Gets our focus off ourselves and onto to Him and others.
- \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Which of the above reasons to honor God resonates with you the most at this time in your life? Why?

*John 12:26 ... Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.*

### 3. One of the great paradoxes of life is that when we honor God, He honors us!

### 4. How is this principle seen in John 12:26?

### 5. Use your imagination for a moment. What picture comes to mind of God honoring you?

### 6. Pictures of someone important honoring someone of lesser importance comes to mind. For example, our nation honors a hero. Many have been to the White House to receive a Purple Heart. Have you seen one of these ceremonies on TV?

### 7. This image is suggestive of how God thinks of you. He wants to honor YOU with something more valuable than a Purple Heart. Can you see Him draping a medal around your neck? Can you see a room full of witnesses, cheering you on?

### 8. What strikes you most from this week's devotionals?