

HONOR & RESPECT

WEEK THREE: UNDIGNIFIED

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We value honor. We want respect. We also want others to show us grace and forgiveness. And we absolutely don't want to be judged! Isn't it strange that sometimes the minute we get a little "religion" in us, we can do just exactly the opposite with our actions! When our pride kicks in, we fail to honor and respect God's sovereignty and greatness. Suddenly, we become good enough to disregard God's will and to begin judging others.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) Have you ever thought you were perfectly, totally correct—and been shocked to find out how misled or misinformed you were? This may have happened in a small way, like how to correctly pronounce a word. Or it may have been a foundational belief you once held, but have now "seen the light." Share, whether it's a short, funny story or a life-changing reversal of position.

Into the Bible

- 2) David disobeyed. His intentions were good, but he did not seek God's will. He did not follow God's prescribed plan. He added "a new cart" to God's way of doing things. He got ahead of God's timetable...and then he got angry when things did not go well! False religion seems to honor God, but does exactly the opposite. Note how the people in the verses below excelled or erred in honoring and following God.
 - a. Numbers 20:2-12
 - b. Luke 7:36-39, 44-50

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- c. Mark 12:41-44
 - d. Acts 5:1-11
- 3) The Bible has much to say about judging others. Yet we routinely succumb to that temptation, just as Michal did in 2 Samuel 6:16, 20. We can begin to think that we are called to be the critic and judge of others. Have you ever known someone who was more of a Pharisee than a Jesus-follower? How can we honor God by refusing to make that mistake in our faith walk?
- 4) Whether in public or private, God is worthy of extreme praise. In Matthew 22:37-39, Jesus tells us that the most important commandment is to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." He also tells us to "Love your neighbor as yourself." And He is clear that no law is greater than these. Jesus quoted the Great Commandment from the Old Testament law given through Moses. **Read Mark 6:29-31 and Deuteronomy 6:1-19.** List some simple ways you can honor, respect and love God with all you have and are.

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How Does This Apply?

- 5) This weekend, Mike mentioned obedience as a way out of “stuckness.” Fully and completely obeying means doing what the Bible says and having the same actions and attitudes that Jesus modeled for us. It also means obeying whatever the Holy Spirit has planted in your heart and soul. His conviction will always completely agree with the Bible, but will also be specific to your situation. See how these heroes of the faith heard from God and felt the Spirit’s nudge. Then write down (in code if need be!) an area where you need to fully obey in order to show God the honor and respect that you feel for Him.
- a. Luke 2:25-32
 - b. Acts 10:9-20
 - c. Luke 4:1-2
 - d. My personal nudge:

Digging Deeper: Going Further on Your Own

- 6) David replies to the disdain of his wife Michal with some powerful words:

David said to Michal, “It was before the LORD, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the LORD’s people Israel—I will celebrate before the LORD. I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes. But by these slave girls you spoke of, I will be held in honor.”
2 Samuel 6:21-22 (NIV)

Jesus also valued servanthood and humility. He despised pride, arrogance and those demanding their own rights. There is a very fine line between pride, humility, low-self esteem, and trusting God to promote you in His time and His sovereignty. Why is humility so important in really honoring and respecting God?