

The Word Made Flesh

The Enemy of Honor

John 4:43–46

1. Introduction & Series Recap

- John 1: Jesus' deity established.
- John 2: First miracle (water to wine) and cleansing of the temple—revealing holy anger in defense of God's people.
- John 3: Nicodemus learns that religious goodness cannot save; “He must increase, I must decrease.”
- John 4: The Samaritan woman shows that grace is for the compromised and the confused, not just the religious elite.
- Now, John shifts from long narratives to a tight, revealing moment about **honor**.

2. Hermeneutics Reminder

- New Testament books were written to be read in one sitting, like a film—context builds meaning.
- Today's text depends on remembering what happened earlier in the gospel.

3. A Strange Turn of Events (John 4:43–46)

- Jesus says a prophet has no honor in his hometown... yet Galilee greets Him with warmth and enthusiasm.
- Why the apparent contradiction?
- Context from John 2:23–25—Galileans saw Jesus' miracles in Jerusalem and were captivated by His *gifting*, not His *identity*.
- Their “honor” is not genuine; it is sensationalism.

4. A Word to the Gifted

- People gravitate to giftedness—talent draws crowds, attention, and admiration.
- Social media is built on this reality; the same was true in Jesus' day.
- Jesus never used His gifts to gain admiration—He ministered out of compassion, not ambition.



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- Jesus did not entrust Himself to crowds because He knew their praise was fickle.
- Application: Do not live for the applause of people; it is temporary and shallow. Live for the One.

5. Biblical Honor

A. Every person bears God's image—therefore every person has dignity.

B. Honor means:

1. Speaking truth, not flattery.
2. Believing the best while maintaining discernment.
3. Celebrating righteousness and condemning unrighteousness.

Honor is not blind positivity. It is seeing people the way God sees them.

6. “A Prophet Has No Honor in His Own Hometown” – Part 1

- Familiarity makes honor difficult; those closest to you see your weakness, sin, and humanity.
- Crowds see the highlight reel; family sees the behind-the-scenes.
- Familiarity often breeds contempt, which is why marriages collapse and why leaders often receive honor everywhere except home.

Marriage Application:

- Husbands must *be* honorable: present, patient, providing, protecting.
- Wives must *show* honor: speaking encouragement, recognizing good, calling out strengths.
- Dishonor and unmet expectations become the soil where adultery grows.

Parenting Application:

- Parents must not let familiarity blind them to the good in their children.
- Honor means noticing strengths, not just correcting weaknesses.



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General Application:

- Ask: *Who have I withheld honor from because I've become too familiar with their flaws?*

7. The Galilean Welcome – Flattery, Not Honor

- The Galileans welcomed Jesus because they saw His signs—not because they believed in Him.
- This was not honor but **flattery**, which Scripture condemns repeatedly.

Two Warnings:

1. You may think you're honoring people, but really you're flattering them.

- Flattery is dishonest, self-serving, and manipulative.
- True honor requires truthfulness and love.

2. You may think you're being honored, but you're being flattered.

- If someone praises you but never challenges you, corrects you, or tells you hard truth—they are flattering you, not honoring you.
- Honor cares about your soul; flattery cares about your approval.

8. Five Ways We Show Honor

1. By speaking honestly

- Truth in love builds people; flattery manipulates them.

2. By not being a stumbling block

- Honor protects others spiritually and avoids tempting or discouraging them.

3. By choosing compassion over criticism

- Criticism tears down; compassion restores.

4. By celebrating what is good

- Honor notices and affirms God's grace in others.

5. By strengthening weaknesses



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- Honor comes alongside others to help them grow, not ignore their flaws.