

I. Review

A. Text

John 14:12 NKJV “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son”

II. Greater things require greater response.

Our response to God has much to do with our receiving from Him.

Our approach to Him – determines His approach to us.

A. Scriptures

1. James 4:8 NKJV “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, ye sinners; and purify *your* hearts, ye double minded”

NLT “Come close to God, and God will come close to you”

2. Matt 5:6 NKJV “Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.”

3. Proverbs 8:17 NKJV “I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me”

4. Evidence from these passages.

- a. Everyone is given an opportunity to be a seeker.
- b. Everyone doesn’t take advantage of seeking him on the same level.
- c. The reward of seeking is in the hands of the seeker.

PASTOR'S NOTE: Greater Things – Require Greater Seeking
Greater seeking is a greater response – greater approach!

B. Examples of response and approach of receivers in scripture.

1. The woman with the issue of blood

2. Bartimaeus

3. Mark 6:54-56 NKJV “And when they came out of the boat, immediately the people recognized Him, ran through that whole surrounding region, and began to carry about on beds those who were sick to wherever they heard He was. Wherever He entered, into villages, cities, or the country, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged Him that they might just touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched Him were made well.”

4. Practical Application

a. Receivers show up.

III. Greater Response Part 2

A. Jesus' Home Town

Mark 6:1-6 NKJV “Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him. And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing *Him* were astonished, saying, ‘Where *did* this Man *get* these things? And what wisdom *is* this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not

His sisters here with us?’ So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, ‘**A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house.**’ Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed *them*. And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.”

- 1. Most of the time the lack of miracles in Jesus home town is accredited to UNBELIEF**
- 2. It wasn’t unbelief alone that hindered the people from receiving. It was A LACK OF HONOR.**

NASB “Jesus said to them, ‘A prophet is not dishonored except in his hometown and among his *own* relatives, and in his *own* household.’”

a. They did not honor him - they dishonored him.

b. Honor = base or less esteem – despised.

Valuing by which the price is fixed. Honor which one has by reason of rank and state of office he holds.

REVERENCE – Esteem of the highest degree – precious

c. They did not have confidence in HIM as a spiritual leader.

You can only receive from those whom you esteem.

You can only receive from those you believe are called.

You can only receive from those you believe are anointed.

You will not receive from those you do not esteem as CALLED.

d. Matthew 10:14-15 NKJV “And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet. Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!”

e. Paul

*There were many places where Paul **was not** honored.*

*There were places where he **was** honored.*

Acts 28:1-2 NKJV “Now when they had escaped, they then found out that the island was called Malta. And the natives showed us unusual kindness; for they kindled a fire and made us all welcome, because of the rain that was falling and because of the cold”

Acts 28:7-10 NKJV “In that region there was an estate of the leading citizen of the island, whose name was Publius, who received us and entertained us courteously for three days. And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him. So when this was done, the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came and were healed. They also honored us in many ways; and when we departed, they provided such things as were necessary.”

- **HONOR PRODUCED A HARVEST**
- **TO HONOR THE WORD IS TO HONOR THE TEACHER / MINISTER / PASTOR / EVANGELIST**
- *How you hear.*
- *How you respond.*

- *Showing up.*
- *Connecting to the message.*
- *The greater the response – the greater the release of power.*

f. **Gal 6:6 NKJV** “Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches”

AMP “The one who is taught the word [of God] is to share all good things with his teacher [contributing to his spiritual and material support]”

g. **1 Tim 5:17 NKJV** “Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.”

AMP “The elders who perform their leadership duties well are to be considered worthy of double honor (financial support), especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching [the word of God concerning eternal salvation through Christ]”

3. **1 Sam 2:30 NKJV** “Therefore the LORD God of Israel says: ‘I said indeed *that* your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.’ But now the LORD says: ‘Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed”

Brenton Septuagint “I will only honor them that honor me.”

B. An honorable response is one that puts HIM in *HIGH REGARD* – *The Highest Regard*

1. What are the marks of putting one in high regard?

- a. You are willing to pay the price whatever the price is.
- b. You are willing to sacrifice to be in His presence.
- c. He takes priority over all other things.
- d. Reverence – our approach is one of reverence.
 - Reverential worship.*
 - Reverential service.*
 - Reverential giving.*
 - Reverential surrender.*

2. David's response

2 Sam 24:24 NKJV “Then the king said to Araunah, ‘No, but I will surely buy *it* from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing.’ So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.”

CEV “But David answered, ‘No! I have to pay you what they're worth. I can't offer the LORD my God a sacrifice that cost me nothing.’ So David bought the threshing place and the oxen for 50 pieces of silver.”

3. The woman with the alabaster box

Mark 14:3-9 “And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster

flask of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask and poured *it* on His head. But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, ‘Why was this fragrant oil wasted? For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.’ And they criticized her sharply. But Jesus said, ‘Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me. For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always. She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial. Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.’”

a. Some were quick to criticize.

Why do you show up at every service?

Why do you go forward for prayer?

Why do you _____???

You don't have to do all that.

All that isn't required...

IT'S HONOR...

Do not allow your honorable approach to be criticized by those who choose not to approach on the same level you do.

b. The things of God are not automatic.

- *There is a flow to every service.*
- *I fell into the flow of the Spirit when I was introduced to Pentecost.*
- *As we grow and mature – we don't fall in, we step in.*
- **CHRISTIANITY IS NOT PASSIVE – RESPONSE REQUIRED**
- **ACTIONS add to the FLOW of GOD**

- *Lack of actions HINDER the FLOW OF GOD*
- *Spiritual responses help the spiritual flow*
- *To step in is to approach.*
- *To step in is to respond.*
- *To step in is to show up.*
- *To step in is to participate.*
- *To step in is to get close.*