

## Biblical Honour (Pt 4)

### 7. We are to honour the marginalised and weak

#### **Luke 14:12-14**

<sup>12</sup> Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbours; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, <sup>14</sup> and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

#### **Mt 25:42-46**

<sup>42</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' <sup>44</sup> "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' <sup>45</sup> "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' <sup>46</sup> "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Try this one day. Look a beggar in the eyes and call him sir.

Another group that is often marginalised are foreigners, yet the bible has strong things to say about how we treat them.

#### **Lev 19:33-34**

<sup>33</sup> "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. <sup>34</sup> The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the LORD your God.

### 8. We are to honour those under our spiritual leadership

#### **1 Pet 5:2-3**

<sup>2</sup> Be shepherds of God's flock that is among you, watching over them not out of compulsion, but because it is God's will; not out of greed, but out of eagerness; <sup>3</sup> not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

Some people watch over the flock because of what they can gain. This is because people were generous to their leaders and teachers.

Watching over the flock includes praying for them. Throughout his letters we see Paul praying for the believers.

#### **Gal 4:19**

*My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you*

Be willing to serve those under you. Nothing should be too menial for you to do.

## **Mt 20:24-26**

<sup>24</sup> When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. <sup>25</sup> But Jesus called them aside and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their superiors exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> It shall not be this way among you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant...

## **John 13:14-17**

<sup>14</sup> “If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. <sup>15</sup> For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. <sup>16</sup> Truly, truly, I sat to you, a slave is not greater than his master; neither one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.”

## **9. We are to honour our head of state and governmental authorities**

### **We are to recognise and respect the office they hold**

#### **1 Samuel 24:6**

He said to his men, “The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord’s anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord.”

#### **1 Peter 2:17**

Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honour the emperor.

### **We are to renew our minds concerning what we say and think about them**

#### **Ecclesiastes 10:20**

Do not revile the king even in your thoughts, or curse the rich in your bedroom, because a bird in the sky may carry your words, and a bird on the wing may report what you say.

#### **Acts 23:5**

Paul replied, “Brothers, I did not realize that he was the high priest; for it is written: ‘Do not speak evil about the ruler of your people.’”

### **We are not to curse them**

#### **Exodus 22:28**

Do not blaspheme God<sup>[a]</sup> or curse the ruler of your people.

### **We are to submit to their authority**

#### **Romans 13:1**

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

#### **Jude 1:8**

In the very same way, on the strength of their dreams these ungodly people pollute their own bodies, reject authority and heap abuse on celestial beings.

Just because you have some special revelation does not mean you should reject the authorities that have been put in place.

**We are to honour them by making them one of our priorities in prayer.**

**1 Tim 2:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> *First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be offered on behalf of all men* <sup>2</sup> *for kings and all those in authority, so that we may lead tranquil and quiet lives in all godliness and dignity....*

**10. We are to honour our staff, employees and customers**

Do you treat your staff in the same way that you want them to treat your customers?

**A. Honour your employees by blessing them**

**Ruth 2:4**

*“Now behold Boaz came from Bethlehem and said to the reapers, ‘May the Lord be with you.’ And they said to him, ‘May the Lord be with you.’”*

**B. Honour your stakeholders by refraining from oppressive practices.**

**Proverbs 28:16**

*“A leader who is a great oppressor lacks understanding, but he who hates unjust gain will prolong his days.”*

Examples of oppressive practices:

1. Victimisation means punishing or threatening to punish someone. It is against the law to punish or threaten to punish someone because they have e.g. asserted their rights under equal opportunity law...
2. Sexual harassment
3. Workplace bullying (screaming mimi, two headed snake, gate-keeper, tank, constant critic, sniper etc)

Unjust gain – is there an area in your life where you gained something but as you look back it was unjust? What can you do about it going forward?

**C. Honour your employees through justice and equity knowing you are accountable to God.**

**Colossians 4:1**

*“Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven.”*

**D. Honour your employees by not using threats.**

**Ephesians 6:9**

*“And masters do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.”*

**E. Honour your workers by not withholding wages.**

**James 5:1-6**

<sup>1</sup> *“Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you.*

<sup>2</sup> *Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten.* <sup>3</sup> *Your gold and*

*your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure! <sup>4</sup> Behold the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. <sup>5</sup> You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wonton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in the day of slaughter. <sup>6</sup> You have condemned and put to death the righteous man; he does not resist you.”*

## **F. Honour your workers by paying wages on time.**

### **Leviticus 19:13**

*“Do not defraud or rob your neighbour. “Do not hold back the wages of a hired worker overnight.*

### **Deuteronomy 24:14-15**

*<sup>14</sup> “You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your countrymen or one of your aliens who is in your land in your towns. <sup>15</sup> You shall give him his wages on his day before the sun sets, for he is poor and sets his heart on it; so that he may not cry against you to the Lord and it become sin against you.”*

You want the people around you to cry out to God for you not against you. Some managers are being prayed out by their staff as we speak.

## **11. We are to honour our leaders at work**

### **A. We honour our leaders at work by being fully engaged and diligent.**

#### **Colossians 3:22-25**

*<sup>22</sup> “Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. <sup>23</sup> Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men; <sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. <sup>25</sup> For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.”*

Engagement has 3 pillars: Dedication, Vigour and Absorption. Something that’s almost the opposite of engagement is burnout. The pillars of burnout are exhaustion and cynicism.

### **B. We should honour our leaders at work by operating from a place of contentment.**

#### **Luke 3:14**

*“Don’t take money from anyone by force, or accuse anyone falsely, and be content with your wages”.*

### **C. We should honour our leaders at work by demonstrating respect at all times.**

#### **1 Timothy 6:1, 2**

*<sup>1</sup> “Let all who are under the yoke as slaves regard their own masters as worthy of double honour so that the name of God and our doctrine may not be spoken against. <sup>2</sup> And let those who have believers as their masters not be disrespectful to them*

*because they are brethren, but let them serve them all the more, because those who partake of the benefit are believers and beloved...*

**D. We should honour our leaders at work by not stealing from our workplace, suppliers, or customers.**

**Exodus 20:15**

*"Thou shalt not steal."*

People often steal because of impatience, laziness, greed etc. Go to the root.

**Eph 4:28**

*Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.*

**Prov 10:2**

*Ill-gotten treasures have no lasting value, but righteousness delivers from death.*

**Prov 20:17**

*Food gained by fraud tastes sweet, but one ends up with a mouth full of gravel.*

**Ps 62:10**

*Do not trust in extortion or put vain hope in stolen goods; though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them*

**E. We show honour when we are submissive to our supervisors in the workplace.**

**1 Samuel 15:23**

*"Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and insubordination is an iniquity and idolatry..."*