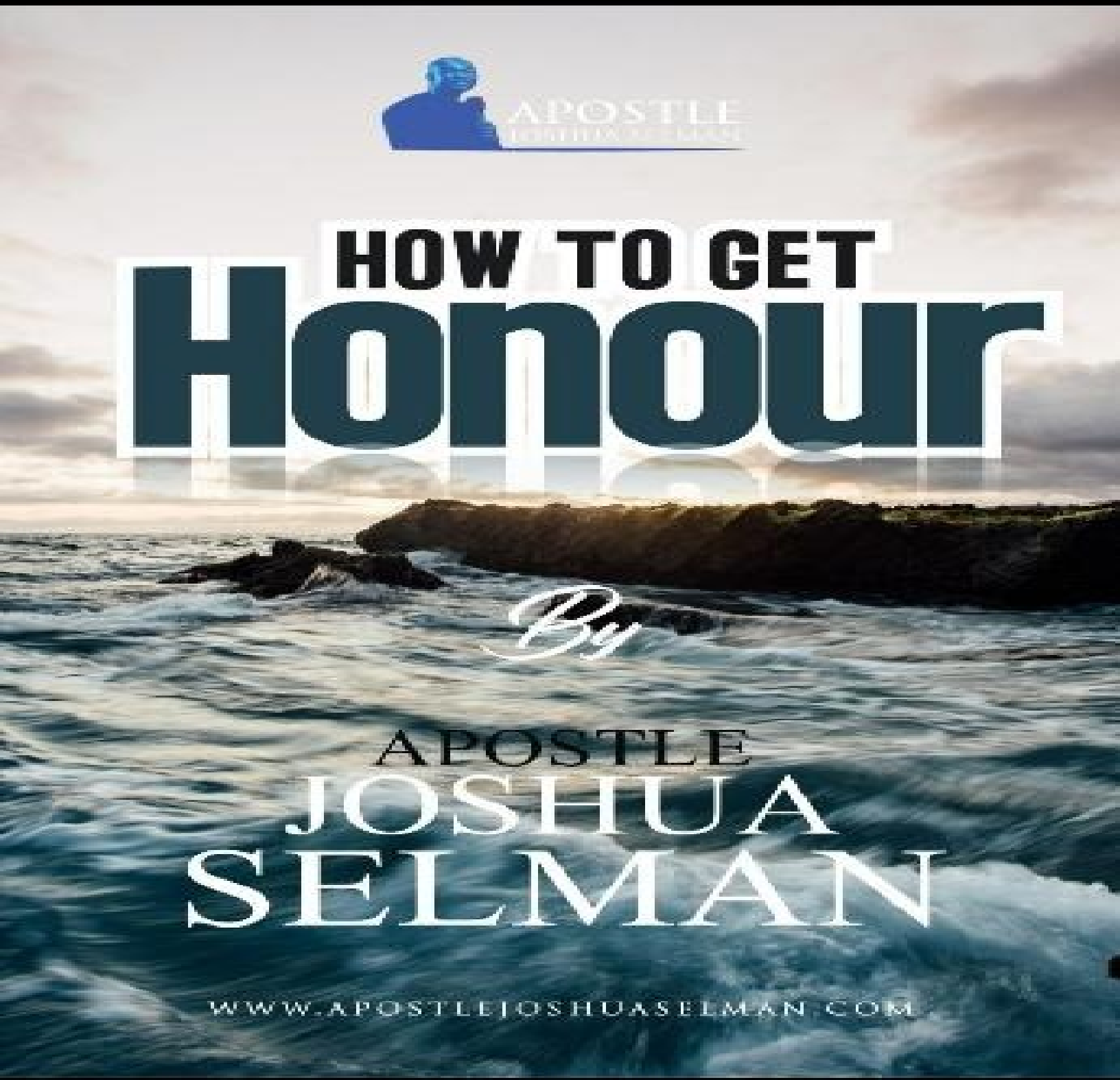
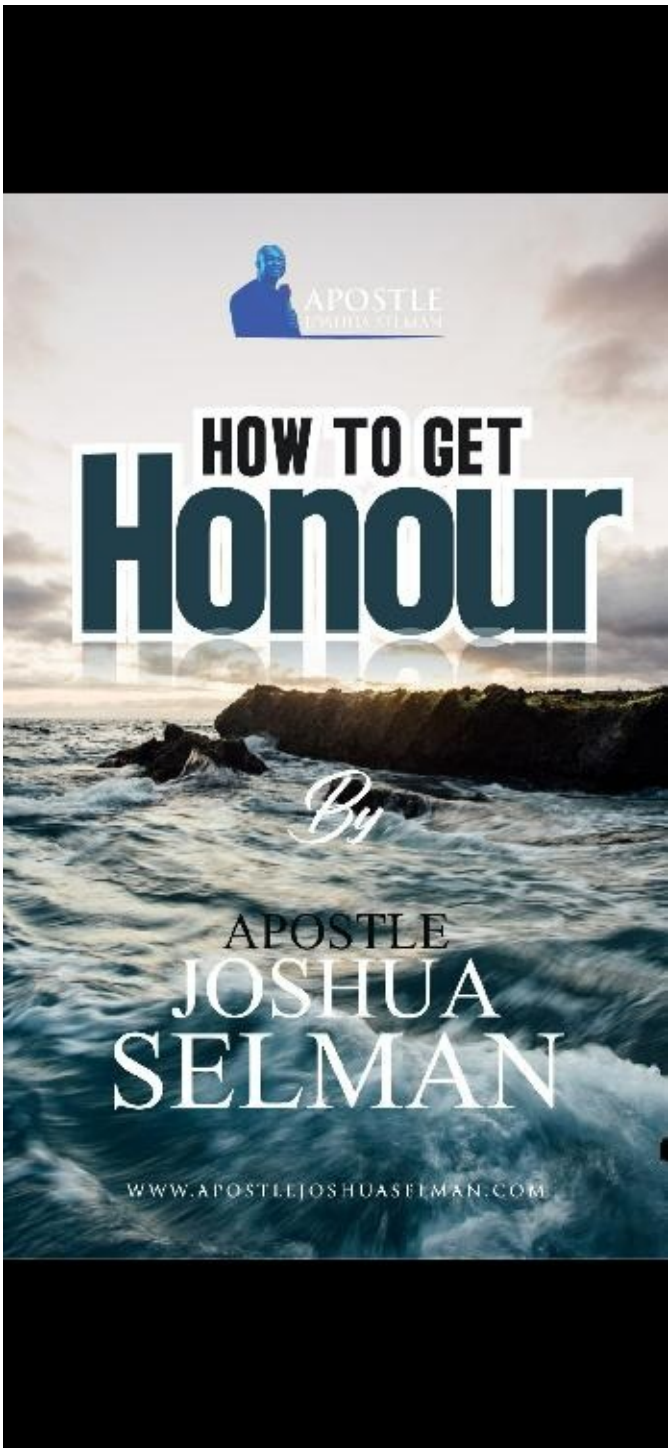

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THE BOOK OF ESTHER

THE BOOK OF HONOUR

Apostle Joshua Selman

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This is a dedicated and passionate project of transcribing Sermons of Apostle Joshua Selman to reach more souls and make his messages available beyond borders, and give more people options to partake in the transformation through the word of God, everything transcribed in this book is for informative purposes only, it is not intended to cure or treat any ailment.

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THE BOOK OF ESTHER – PRINCIPLE OF UNCOMMON FAVOUR

The book of Esther has been a very interesting book because in this book we do not find the record of a man of God and a priest which is very strange because the character of Scripture is such that regardless of the dispensation, you will usually find someone who will represent the hand and voice of God within the context of that dispensation. But the book of Esther is very strange. The bible starts by flaunting the glory of a very strange king called Ahasuerus, the bible is not careful to show us the length and breadth of this man's achievement; the extent of his achievement, that he was a king that exerted dominion over 127 provinces; a single man. I wonder why the bible would take out the time and the rigor to be that detailed; it was fine enough to say there was once a great king and he was head of 127 provinces. That would have been enough, but the Bible goes on to give us meticulously; talks about his princes and all the people that represented his cabinet.

Then the scene changes and the bible introduce a very strange woman who the bible admits to be very beautiful called Vashti, who was said to be the Queen and very fair to look upon. In those days, it was very consistent in the character of kings to organize a banquet and invite neighboring princes and kings to flaunt their glory in their presence. Showing them the spoils of war, the treasure of the palace. They will call the orators to come to captivate the people with their skills and many others.

On this one occasion, the king called for a banquet, and then while the men were under the influence of the wine and bounty of the palace, on the other side of the palace was Vashti having her own banquet with her own cabinet.

The next major issue that the bible discusses is the dishonor that a woman communicates to the king and the consequence that followed. The king called for Vashti to come just to flaunt her beauty in the presence of kings and princes. The moment Vashti heard that she felt insulted and believed that she was been used and she rebelled, she sent a reply 'Go and tell the king, Vashti will not come'.

The king is grieved but decides to stay calm, and then the elders come together and advised the king sensing that he wants to be passive about the issue. Saying Vashti just showed dishonor and she is in a position where anything she does is regarded as worthy of emulation. The effect of this that she has done implies that their wives will begin to do likewise. Then the king was advised to do something that will be a warning, preserve the honor of the women in your province. The king accepted and Vashti was thrown away.

The book of Esther is very interesting because the moment Vashti is banished, then the story takes another switch. That there is a man who sat at the gate called Mordecai, the Jew. Mordecai took a lady in his custody, a village girl and the bible says she has no father nor mother. And there is an announcement from the palace that require all virgins to be gathered in Shushan, the King is about to look for another wife. And Mordecai summoned to courage to bring his little girl to try her luck, peradventure the king will like her. Eventually, she becomes Queen. And the book of Esther became the only book in the bible where the official voice of God and the advancer of God's interest was not a priest, not a prophet, not a mighty man warrior but a woman. And it was because of that woman that the Jews were preserved, Mordecai was preserved.

A woman who did not use might and yet judged her man, a woman who did not use might and yet restored peace. The first wonder in the book of Esther was the transition to becoming the wife of a King; they were arrogant and like gods. So what did Esther do, that will transit this little village girl, who will dare not stand close to the king's palace, but now has gotten favor with the king, not only to become his Queen, but she was willing to divide her kingdom without divorce.

Esther 4 vs. 13 Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.

Vs. 14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time,... this means this season requires a response, Esther, if you respond another time, it will not produce the same effect.

The letter and threat of Hamman issued because Mordecai failed to bow down to him at the gate each time he comes to the palace, and Hamman said he needs absolute loyalty and disrespect his exalted position. And not only Mordecai, but he wants to annihilate all the Jews. And Mordecai sends word to Esther walked in after the mistake of Vashti.

The palace can disconnect you with the pain of where you came from to the point that you may not remember that once upon a time you were in a position that now exalted, God desire that you go back. The palace can so fade the scars of your pain, you will forget you were once on the backside.

While Esther was still thinking it is not a matter of urgency that she is queen, Mordecai sent word to her that 'don't you forget, that you are also a Jew, they may start with us, but they will not end with us.

Est 4:14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time,... Every time and every season required a response

...then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place, but thou and thy father's house shall he destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

Vashti is banished, and there is a vacancy. God is totally not interested in anything that he cannot find a window from it to advance his kingdom. When you study the bible, historically, many other things happened concurrently with the things written in the bible that were worthy of being recorded. Some of them were recorded but were not captured in scripture. Everything captured in the scripture was captured with respect to their contribution to kingdom advance. If God could not find a space in that story, where Christ will be revealed, it was useless. In God's economy, whatever promotes Christ is what he is interested in. It doesn't matter how popular, if Christ cannot find a space for himself in any story, light, in any situation it doesn't worth his participation.

For a long time, the issue of the palace was not a concern to God, because everybody there did not give him space. God began to be interested in the palace when there was a vacancy because his desire was to find a way to bring the Jews out of captivity. There were people who had to opt from one level of captivity to the other.

Notice, that the name "God" was never mentioned, until Esther showed up. There was nothing in that palace that seems to honor God and so God too was inactive and silent. But the moment he found a vacancy, then he said his interest can be promoted. Then a little girl, gets to the palace and God said finally, I've gotten someone who can represent my purposes. And through that one woman; not a prophet, not a king, not a priest was the only book where a woman played the role of both the prophetic and Apostolic

without no ordination from anyone, she became the voice of God within that land.

There are two keys to be learned from the entire book of Esther, and whoever would align to possess these keys in this season will inevitably reproduce Esther's dimension of result.

Key 1: <u>Uniqueness and a man's usefulness (Honor).</u> The rewarding, the discerning of a man's usefulness. The usefulness of a person could be an object is called honor. For example, the ability to discern the usefulness of a phone and the ability to not take it for granted. Dishonor, therefore, is the trivializing of a man's usefulness, the trivializing of the contribution of a person or an object in your life.

Honor; one of the most powerful spiritual mystery. If you master honor, there is no power in existence that sustains the ability to clamp you down in one position. You will live your life as if Satan does not exist.

I show you why great people do not necessarily rise to the position that befits their sacrifice. They have the knowledge, they have skills, they even have God, but they have trivialized the excellency of honor.

Honor is not a ladder, it's a lift. It can turn your life around in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye. In this kingdom, who hates you does not matter, but who like you matters.

If you are saying you don't need men, you are right only if you are saying that in respect to God's sovereign power. But if you are saying that with respect to trivializing the usefulness of men, then sit back and relax while you experience the shock that your ignorance will produce. The episodes of pain that will come as a result of ignorance. To the point that the Psalmist says "what is man?" God has many options, so many

things to think about in the throne, but in the midst of the worship, he thinks of man, to the point that He is not ashamed to chase man. He is unashamed to make his vulnerability known to us; he shows us how vulnerable and soft spotted he is. How then you trivialize man.

Note this: All blessings come from God through **men** to you. No blessings come from God to you. It looks like it comes from God to you. Even Jesus came from God through man to men. All destructions come from Satan through men to men and all blessings with no exception whatsoever. If it looks like you have an encounter with God, intercepting you and God is an intercessor somewhere. Just because you could not see the person does not mean there is none.

Hannah the prophetess was in the temple for 60 years, praying down Jesus. It was not just Mary and Angel Gabriel; it was a man in-between.

It is possible for God to say yes and man says no, the answer in your life will be no. David was in the wilderness, seeing himself as being king. God rejects Saul as king. A man called Samuel came in-between and say "Lord I refuse". And David is paying the price. God already told David he is the next king, but a prophet stands in between and says 'God I have not allowed this' and David's destiny is in the balance, waiting for the approval of (not God) a man. And God himself knowing the immutability of the system he built had to come to the man to negotiate saying to him, how long will he weep for Saul, seeing that he has rejected him, don't delay another man's destiny, take your horn, go to the house of Jesse. Can't God bypass Samuel?

Every possibility in the kingdom is governed by a spiritual condition that makes them real in your life. Just because they are true based on God's verdict does not mean they will manifest.

The 'mother' that gives birth to favor is called Honor. Until honor is pregnant there is no child called favor. If honor is barren, you are in trouble. Your first assignment is to pray that honor 'takes in' when honor takes in, begin to rejoice because a child is coming and the name of that child is favor.

¶I cannot know you by myself, unless you take over

We cannot see this on our own, Jesus take over

We cannot learn this by ourselves, unless you take over. ¶

There are many families that have the privileged of leverage from the credibility and integrity of their parents, however, there are some people that the only ladder they will have in their lives is the ladder that is built through this understanding. Otherwise, they will remain at the backside of life forever.

Your growth and your lifting is not just dependent on the will of God. His will for you is clear, it's not a mystery. Jeremiah 29 vs.11*"I know the thought that I think towards you says the Lord, they are thought of good(peace) and not of evil, to bring you a future and an expected end"*

We are not in the dark, as to God's desire for us to rise to the top. He says in the bible that in this is God glorified, how? When ye bear much fruits, so then shall ye be my disciples. This means in your bearing many fruits you validate that God mentored you well. Your not bearing fruits is an indictment on God's mentorship.

Jesus came to a tree and find that tree with green leaves and then no fruits and he cursed the tree and within 24 hours the tree dried up.

Honor is the reason why you will leave where you are to the next level or the reason why you will remain where you are in spite of the fasting and prayer.

It is painful to propose things that your life cannot capture. There is no ladder, there is no dimension, you can earn a living practicing honor. The generation of young people does not understand honor at all. It is the reason why life continues to be hard because transgression is a mother, and gives birth to hardship. Hardship has a science to it. Proverb 13 vs. 15 *Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard.*

A transgressor is not an unbeliever; a transgressor is a violator of God's system. There are many skillful people in this nation and they continue to wonder why they never rise; some music ministers, some men of God, some women of God, some career people. People continue to have visions upon visions of growth in ministry and they wonder why, in spite of all the machineries that they put in place, they add every other thing to the ingredient except honor.

What everything in the palace minus honor produced? The King is still on his throne, his servant still loyal to him, the chariot still in place, the treasure house still full of gold. And honor is extracted from a palace for one day and the palace is almost in trouble. Think about what has been happening in your life, everything minus honor.

Honor is the discern, the celebrating and if need be, the rewarding of a person, of a system. The only reason why we have failed in life is not necessarily so much about Satan, it is dishonor. Dishonor to God, dishonor to men, dishonor to principles. If Satan is taken away from this world, men will continue to suffer, they will not even know he had left. That is how you will know what part of our lives has nothing to do with him.

In heaven where Devil is not, Angels don't just enter the throne room, evil is not there, Satan is not there, yet we don't jump in and out of the

throne room, there are doors, there is order in heaven.

When you trivialize the usefulness of God in your life, when God becomes one of the many important things, things do not work like that. The jealousy of God was designed to fight every other thing till he is number one even if he gave it to you. It's amazing that God can once fight the thing he once gave you.

We see dishonor communicated in the pungency of our word, communicated in the sarcasm of the body language that is communicated. When we see great people, we so trivialize them.

We are embarrassed to acknowledge great things, when we see greatness we act as if we are blind towards it. There are many young arrogant preachers that will see men of God, seasoned people who have been used by God and just look and puff up with arrogance.

There are battles you cannot fight, the fact that you want to fight it proves that your life is under an attack because there are battles in this life that we should never try to fight.

Someone you have dishonored, something you have dishonored has authorized your hardship. Every time you see consistent results, it means it is no longer guesswork, there is a grace. You cannot be exceptional indefinitely by your strength. It's proof that another system has lifted you, and any wise person will discern that behind this result, there is a grace.

The key to close doors is dishonor; you don't need to ask the door to close, just practice dishonor and watch the door shut on their own. Every door that opens, open to honor.

The door of the palace, in spite of the chain, she did not have the key, but honor took her to the palace. She bypassed the protocol.

That means the lack of job was not really about the job, it was something about your dishonor. When you trivialize a man's usefulness in your life, then you are brought into a system where you are forced to recognize that men can be very useful in the rising of men.

It takes a lot of humility; many times honor will sting your ego but the lift and the dimension it will take you is worth that price.

Notice that Vashti did not just backslide from the palace, she left immediately. Look at how dangerous dishonor is. It is very clear from the bible that Vashti was not a woman of honor, because there is no record of her running to meet the king saying 'Oh King, have mercy upon me"

(In the name of Jesus Christ, I forbid it for you to enter the palace and have to come out because of dishonor)

The bible *says the path of a just is like a shining light, it shines ever brighter*. Sometimes as a minister or music artist, everybody is placing a demand on your grace, until you forgot that the favor and the honor of the people is a trust that you should not trivialize, and suddenly everything goes down.

There are people who would have been managing directors today without battles, all other things in place, but dishonor shut the door and threw the key away.

When Jesus was born, He was taken to the temple to honor the people that spiritually contrib uted to his arrival. Simeon the prophet blesses him, likewise Hannah the prophetess and then he starts to live.

Until Jesus came to the sea the official voice of God within that territory is John the Prophet. John saw Jesus coming and then he said *behold the lamb, that takes away the sins of the world.* John said 'I know you are the Christ' and also said

'I am not even worthy to untie the latchet of your shoe'

Jesus, the word, was under a closed heaven for 30 years till honor opens his heaven; as the son of God, his heaven was closed, not even the father opened it. He came to the existing authority within that land and Jesus said *suffer it to be so*. In order words, it means 'this is an ordinance, that not even me can violate'

After John deep Jesus in water and as he comes out, the bible says and the heavens were opened over Jesus. When your heavens are opened there are things that others can do and fail, but you can do and pass with it. When Jesus heaven was opened, then the father said *this is my beloved son* (having fulfilled this ordinance) *in whom I am well pleased, hear ye him.*

Just because you have a voice that sing does not mean you will be heard.

Just because you have genuine anointing does not mean you will be heard. Honor is paramount.

Jesus climbed up the mountain, 5000 people climbed up with him, because there is a verdict *'fear ye him'*

Nobody can lift himself, it is not given to men. You do not have the ability to promote yourself, it is not within your jurisdiction. Your assignment is to align yourself to be discerned and promoted.

Could this be the reason why we are where we are? Why prophecy comes out week after week without result?

There was a foolish man in the bible, who would had been at the wrath of a king, except that he has a wise wife called Abigail. The woman quickly stepped in to build the foolishness that the dishonor of that man caused.

There is a lot of prayers and spirituality, but there is a different version of dishonor. Dishonor from a woman to her husband, dishonor to many other things.

There was a man of God who had serious crisis in his family; financial crisis, and yet he was a pastor in the church of God, and people will always come to testify to what God has done through the pastor, while there was fire on the mountain in his own house.

And one time, service was going on and the wife just stood up and walked out of the church. And then the pastor was touched, finished his sermon and counseling quickly and reached for his house and when he got home, he asked the wife what is wrong, and she never uttered a word. She brought out the best utensils to be used to serve her husband meal, while the husband was still amazed, she knelt down and said "Servant of God, my home is in trouble"

Because the anointing on that man continues to bless people who discerned that he was not just a man, but an anointed man. And because of familiarity, she was shocked that the church was rising but her home was dying. And the woman found the key that has been closing the door –dishonor, and she sees her husband that day as a man of God and desire that her home must change.

There are many dimensions to every man you see. The dimension you honor is the one that brings riches to you. Your brother is not only your brother, he is also a prophet. He never prophesies to you because the only dimension you call is your brother.

There are women who carry certain graces; they never beg, quarter to shame, something must arise and bail them out. It is a grace, they may not be educated, but it's something about bowing their knees, it's like God covenanted himself.

Human beings are mysteriously strange; all you see is not all there is. There are untapped spir-

itual dimensions in people, that if honor is engaged on, can change our lives.

There are many people born and bred on a particular soil filled with blessing, yet doesn't reflect in their lives. People come from other places to upon your soil and place a demand through honor and walk away with blessings.

You will never receive from a colleague, there is no transference between colleague to colleague, there has to be spiritual potential difference. Someone has got to acknowledge and discern.

Elisha was never supposed to be a prophet, he was a farmer, but he decided to walk with an angry man.

Can you ignore the weakness in men, to still get what they carry? The secret of receiving from men, to transit to another dimension is hidden in the riddle of Samson. When Samson tore a lion on his way to go and see a lady, he returned after 7 days and he found a mystery. He found that there were trees in that place, but the bees did not go to the tree to put honey there, they came and entered into a carcass and put honey there. And so when Samson came, he was looking for the honey and the bees directed him inside a smelling carcass and he gave a riddle and said 'out of something strong has come something sweet.'

Why will bees not go to the trees and enter a smelling carcass? This is a mystery of how God store possibilities. The vessel can be smelling but can you endure the smell to get the honey? That is the price. Whoever told you that anointed people are perfect in themselves? Were you not pretold the treasure is in empty vessel.

When you are desperate for growth, anything is endurable. When you begin to complain about things it means you are not desperate enough for growth. Your boss may be an angry man, but one call from him can be used by God to change your

life. Because you mismanage his anger, he threw you out and you acted like it didn't matter, everyone who can give you job respect that same angry man, and when he hears they want to give you a job, he condemns you.

Dishonor is not only bad, it has side effect that can be demonstrated in your lifetime. People can know that you are carrying this as a token of dishonor. There are many ways to build your life; you can pay your way in pain, or you can honor you way through this strange lift called honor.

Your mother may be in the village and she never went to school, but do you know when she was small, her prophetess mother blessed her and said whoever you open your mouth to bless, their life will change.

Every possibility is secured through understanding. Graces are transferable.

¶I cannot know this on my own, unless you take over

I will never know this by myself, unless you take over¶

When it has to do with reception, you have to take off your crown to receive. It's not only worship that requires removing your crown, receiving also.

Behind every glory, there is a story.

Every possibility you pray for is already available. It is the discernment. You know possibilities by the results they produce, if they are not captured in your life, the grace is not yet there. Someone has been the answer to your prayer for a long time, everything you are saying God should give you, God gave the person since and regardless of what is going on in the country, that person's finances never go down, there is a grace that is capable through honor. Esther honored Mordecai, she honored her way to the palace.

Honor is a weak point. It is not always the sword that is used. Sometimes you need to drop the sword and use the weak point. Deborah was a warrior but she never sat on the throne. Ask Esther, how winners sit on the throne, ask Esther how to replace Vashti. When you do what Vashti did, you will follow her ways, she forgot she was a queen only because a king married her.

Esther comes to the king, and he said 'Esther was aileth thee? Even to the half of my kingdom, I will give you'. She would have seized the opportunity to say her main reason for been there, to save the Jews, but instead she said i just want to honor how great you are.

A woman under fire, and the king ask her what is wrong, she said nothing, I only came to honor you and I want Hamman to be there. So honor can kill, because that was how she killed Hamman. She honored an enemy to death. Do you ever learn that honor is a mass destroyer? Hamman goes about reveling in the opportunity given to him. And Esther begins to flaunt the king's glory until he demanded of her what she wanted.

Many times the sword does not win, the sword may injure but it may not bring victory. There are times you don't need injury, you need a victory. If a war is not needed, keep the sword. Not every victory need war, if you don't have to fight, let honor lift you above challenges.

Esther honored the king again through yet another feast. And then there was a particular feast she now organized, it was called the feast of wine. That was when she made her request, not when there was food. Something happens when you are full of wine.

Yours is to play your own part, and watch the power of God's law; they will shift things, it will be like you are holding a charm. Honor is a sword, it can kill. You can honor people down

while you rise. Hamman was honored to the gallows that he built. Then the king asks Esther of her request and she said 'My life and that of my people is been threatened' and she says 'The enemy is this wicked Hamman'. The king left for a while and goes to his garden. Hamman fell on the bed of Esther to beg her and the king met him saying 'it's not enough you want to kill, but also want to rape my wife'. And as soon as he said that one of the men in the palace informed the king of the gallows that Hamman already built, and the King said, 'go and hang him'

Every consistent result has come from the sacrifice that a man has paid with God in the secret, with the spirit of understanding. Woe betides a man who ignores greatness when you see it and without all contradiction, the less is blessed. The less is not the weak one, the less is the one in need.

People don't just come to help you, there is a grace that draws people. The bible says gentiles shall come to your light and their kings to the brightness of your rising, your gate shall be opened day and night and not be shut to receive the blessings of the gentiles.

¶I cast my crown before, the highest royalty
I am undone before, your glorious majesty
you are the king of king and Lord of all lords
you are the king of kings and Lord of all lords
oh oh oh oh oh oh oh oh oh¶

prayers

- Cry to God, the restorer of season, let the doors be opened unto me once again Lord
- Ask the Lord for grace to discern who is deserving of honor; they may not come inform that you will see and appreci-

ate, the greatest thing in your life may not come in the way you will appreciate. Lord grant me graces to see the individual and the sacrifices.

They are men, but they are lifted, they can lift you, they are men that can carry you to the next dimension. They don't have to be men and women in the ministry, they have to be men and women who are carrying something divine and something powerful.

Listen, when you honor people just because you suspect that there is something in them you can have, it's hypocrisy. Honor is a culture that must be truthful, it is a culture that is too contagious to exempt anybody. If that spirit is upon you, you will honor the mighty and the low at the same time. You don't treat somebody as a dog. Honor is not political, it follows the purity of your desire. It must be vetted by the purity of your desire.

God Bless You.

About The Author

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