

FORWARD IN HONOR

Irony of my first thoughts on the first chapter of my book was a result of something honorable that happened at this church.

Honour is mentioned 186 times in the bible. Honourable is mentioned 30 times

THE CONTEXT OF THIS MESSAGE WILL BE HOW HONOR CAN MOVE YOU (THRUST) YOU FORWARD IN YOUR LIFE

EXPLORING 3 PEOPLE WHO FOUND PROMOTION BECAUSE OF THE HONOR THEY EXHIBITED IN THEIR LIVES

Nearly everyone that God has honored have a couple of things in common. No one would have associated the word "Honor" with them.

Their circumstance would suggest they should never have had a chance for God's honour to be laid upon them

Their lives and circumstances were not spent on themselves but for the benefit or lives of others.

NAAMAN

2 KINGS 5:1 (KJV) Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, but he was a leper¹

Honourable – (Combination) / Accepted / Advanced / To lift oneself up /

Valour – Capability / Excellence / Powerful / Strong / Worthy

Naaman was a captain of the host. (The Entire Syrian Army)

A Leper ??? (PEOPLE ARE IGNORED AND SHUNNED FOR PHYSICAL DISABILITIES)

Bethany Hamilton – On October of 2003, at age 13, Bethany lost her arm in a shark attack in 2003. Since the attack she has appeared as a guest on numerous television shows. Bethany rose through the media from shark attack victim to inspirational role model. She has appeared on *The Amazing Race*, *The Biggest Loser*, *20/20*, *Good Morning America*, *Inside Edition*, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*, *The Today Show*, *The Tonight Show* as well as in the magazines *People*, *Time*, and *American Girl*.

In 2004 she won the [ESPY Award](#) for [Best Comeback Athlete](#)^[17] and also received the [Courage Teen Choice Award](#).^[18]

Bethany has written 2 books. “Soul Surfer” has sold 1.5 Million copies and her movie “Soul Surfer” brought in \$47 Million worldwide and she is still one of the world’s greatest competitive surfers.

Naaman’s wife had a maid who mentioned of the Prophet of Israel (Elisha). The news reached the King of Syria who sent word to the King of Israel to have Elisha come to Naaman. God healed Naaman of his leprosy. He was mentioned 17 times in the Bible, including once by Jesus himself.

You will find *there is a world of people who wish to get behind anyone and will honor anyone who will show courage, fight and fortitude in their disability*. Naaman might have been a leper but he was promoted to honor as the captain of an army and is remembered throughout the Bible with honour

People work years to be promoted in any type of substantial way. It takes God seconds to perform. When God honors you, God will not only move you forward in your life, HE WILL THRUST YOU FORWARD. *When God is involved, the process of everything moves forward with speed.*

Proverbs 27:18 (KJV) Whoso keepeth the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof: so he that waiteth on his master shall be honoured.

SAY THE PHRASE WITH ME, "SHALL BE HONORED"

Keepeth – *"whoso keepeth the fig tree..."* The definition of this word has great depth. It means to guard, protect, maintain and preserve. It is a picture of a worker who must do any work necessary to insure the trees remain healthy and able to bear continual fruit.

Waiteth – *"he that waiteth on his master..."* It literally means to protect your employer and work for him in such a way that his business prospers because of your care.

Honoured – *"...shall be honoured"* In the context of this scripture, the word honor means to be *promoted to honor, to glorify, to make rich or have honor laid upon him*

JOSEPH – THE LIVING EMBODIMENT OF THIS SCRIPTURE

Although Joseph was loved by his father, Jacob, he was nothing short of an outcast (and a hated one at that) of his brothers. They sold Joseph to a group of Ishmaelite slave traders who re-sold him again in Egypt to Potiphar (who was the commander of Pharaoh's imperial guard and "chief" of his executioners)

THE FOCUS – (HIS ARRIVAL IN EGYPT)

At this point, Joseph (Favored son – hated brother – twice sold slave)

One of the hardest journeys as a pastor is to counsel people who have been physically abused, sexually abused, abandoned or emotionally mistreated growing up. (Raise your hand if this applies) ?

Mentally, Joseph carried a lot of mental baggage into Egypt. I don't think anyone would have judged this young man from having equal hatred, bitterness for his family and contempt for Potiphar as he arrived into Egypt.

The story of the relationship between Joseph and Potiphar (Genesis 38:1-6).

2 Key phrases that pivoted Joseph and Potiphar from an owner / slave relationship to one of “honored rank” for Joseph

- God made all Joseph did to prosper in his hand
- Joseph served him (Potiphar)

I do not believe Joseph forgot about what happened with his brothers and how he arrived in Egypt as a slave. Chances are good his sleep was disturbed many a night replaying this horrible occurrence with his brothers

That changed because

Joseph DID something where he was in his life and for whom he was with in an honorable way. God caused what he did to prosper and gave him favor and caused what should have never happened to happen anyway and that Favor of God followed him for the rest of his life.

Honor has the power to propel you forward in your life regardless of history. Wherever you are RIGHT NOW IN YOUR LIFE.....

Repeat this with me..... “ I know God has a plan for my life. He has a plan for my future and that plan is one of hope and peace, to do me good and not evil. MY GOD IS ALWAYS ON MY SIDE.”

URIAH.....

Uriah was a soldier in David’s army. He might not have been the mightiest in strength but he was probably the greatest of David’s Mighty Men when it came to character and loyalty.

Uriah was the husband of Bathsheba. We all know the story of what happened with David and Bathsheba but I want to tell you a little about Uriah, her husband and the valiant, loyal soldier of David’s army.

David had already committed the sin of adultery with Bathsheba and now there was the need for a coverup of his sin.

COVERING UP A SIN WILL ALWAYS BRING WORSE JUDGMENT THAN THE SIN ITSELF

David's initial plan was to bring Uriah home. He had not seen his beautiful wife for a season of time and David was certain of what Uriah would want to do first when he came home. Not a bad plan as plans go but it did not happen the way thought it would. It rarely does.

PLAN A

2 Sam 11:6-9 And David sent to Joab, *saying*, Send me Uriah the Hittite. And Joab sent Uriah to David. ⁷ And when Uriah was come unto him, David demanded *of him* how Joab did, and how the people did, and how the war prospered. ⁸ And David said to Uriah, Go down to thy house, and wash thy feet. And Uriah departed out of the king's house, and there followed him a mess *of meat* from the king. ⁹ But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house²

At this point Uriah had permission to be home from the war. He was free to sleep. He was free to eat a lavish banquet in his honor sent by the King himself and he was more than free, he was encouraged by David to eat, drink and above all, be merry with your wife.

⁹ But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house³

PLAN B

This was not going to according to King David's plan, so Plan B was to put on further pressure and encourage Uriah further to take advantage of the fact he is at home and not in battle

2 Sam 11:10 Camest thou not from *thy* journey? why *then* didst thou not go down unto thine house? ¹¹ And Uriah said unto David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? *as thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing.* ¹² And David said to Uriah, Tarry here today also, and

tomorrow I will let thee depart. So Uriah abode in Jerusalem that day, and the morrow. ¹³ And when David had called him, he did eat and drink before him; and he made him drunk: and at even he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but went not down to his house.

ACTING IN AN HONOURABLE FASHION SOMETIMES REQUIRES US TO GO BEYOND WHAT WE HAVE LIBERTY TO DO, WHAT WE ARE ENCOURAGED TO DO, AND WHAT WE HAVE PERMISSION TO DO...

PLAN C

¹⁴ *And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah.*

Uriah was literally hand delivering his own death warrant to Joab.

¹⁶ *And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, that he assigned Uriah unto a place where he knew that valiant men were.*

Later, when the battle was over and the dead counted, Joab penned this letter and sent it to David

Thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also⁴

I do not want to go any further on the judgments that followed David's life as a result of David's sins and his coverup. He paid a heavy price and God called him out through the prophet Nathan.

2 Sam 23:1 ¹ Now these *be* the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said.....

I do want to zip forward to the end of David's life and read you 2 statements. These were not his last words, but a last testament of sorts

⁸ These *be* the names of the mighty men whom David had:

³⁹ Uriah the Hittite: thirty and seven in all.

THE STORY OF URIAH'S LIFE HAS MOVED FORWARD 3000 YEARS
INTO 2021 IN REMEBERANCE OF HIS HONORABLE LIFE.

*SOMETIMES WHAT WE LEAVE BEHIND IN MEMORY EXCEEDS WHAT
WE ACTUALLY DID TO EARN IT.*