

Days of Elijah pt4 – Marked for a Miracle

Dr. John Carmichael

[Jas 5:17 NASB95] 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months.

[1Ki 17:24 NASB95] 24 Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth."

[Luk 4:22-27 NASB95] 22 And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips; and they were saying, "Is this not Joseph's son?" 23 And He said to them, "No doubt you will quote this proverb to Me, 'Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we heard was done at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.'" 24 And He said, "Truly I say to you, no prophet is welcome in his hometown. 25 "But I say to you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, when a great famine came over all the land; 26 and yet Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath, [in the land] of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. 27 "And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian."

- Why did the woman get the miracles she received? Was it random? Or was there a reason?
- Jesus said that she honored Elijah as a prophet. That is why she received the miracles. When you look at this situation comprehensively, He said this in reference to why He could not do any mighty works. (See also Matthew 13:57-58 and Mark 6:4-5)
- They were familiar with Him.
- Honor will include the people (leadership), place (house of God), and principles (methods) of God.
- We live in a culture of dishonor. Many of us do not know about honor. We need to grow in this area.

Since honor marks us for a miracle, what must we consider about honor?

Here are four important things to know about honor.

I. Honor those over you in the Lord.

- a. [1Th 5:12-13 NASB95] 12 But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, 13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.
- b. "In the family of God, we are all equal. In the Kingdom of God, there is a hierarchy." Debbie Shaut.
- c. [Heb 13:7, 17 NASB95] 7 Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith. ... 17 Obey your leaders and submit [to them,] for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.
- d. [1Ti 5:17 NASB95] 17 The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.
- e. There needs to be recognition that God has placed people over us in the Lord.

II. Honor the office.

- a. [Eph 4:11 NASB95] 11 And He gave some [as] apostles, and some [as] prophets, and some [as] evangelists, and some [as] pastors and teachers,

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- b. "Paul revered the office." (Kenneth Hagin, Biblical Keys to Financial Prosperity) [Act 23:4-5 NASB95] 4 But the bystanders said, "Do you revile God's high priest?" 5 And Paul said, "I was not aware, brethren, that he was high priest; for it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT SPEAK EVIL OF A RULER OF YOUR PEOPLE.'"
- c. What about titles?
 - i. Jesus –
 - 1. [Mat 23:8-10 NASB95] 8 "But do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers. 9 "Do not call [anyone] on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. 10 "Do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, [that is,] Christ.
 - 2. David Guzik - From the rest of Scripture, we can see that Jesus did not intend this as an absolute prohibition, rather as speaking to the heart that loves, collects, and cherishes such titles. We know this because, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, godly men spoke of themselves with some of these titles.
 - ii. John – John did not contradict Jesus.
 - 1. [1Jo 2:13-14 NASB95] 13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. 14 I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.
 - 2. [3Jo 1:4 NASB95] 4 I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.
 - iii. Paul –
 - 1. Called Abraham, father of us all. [Rom 4:16 NASB95] 16 For this reason [it is] by faith, in order that [it may be] in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,
 - 2. [1Ti 2:7 NASB95] 7 For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying) as a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.
 - 3. [Tit 1:4 NASB95] 4 To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.
 - 4. [2Ti 1:11 NASB95] 11 for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher.
 - 5. [1Co 9:2 NASB95] 2 If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.
 - iv. Jesus was teaching against people who were not genuine fathers, teachers, or leaders. Those positions are God-ordained, not people-ordained. They need to be legitimate. "That which he forbids is, 1. An affectation of such titles, and hunting after them. 2. Rom tituli, the exercise of an absolute mastership, or a paternal, absolute power." (Poole)
- d. Honoring the offices that Jesus instituted is important.
- e. Quick word of note: There is an appropriate way to rebuke a leader. [1Ti 5:19 NASB95] 19 Do not receive an accusation against an elder except on the basis of two or three witnesses.

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III. Honor opens the door for the blessing of God.

- a. Jesus points out that the woman was blessed because she honored the prophet. She obeyed the Word of the Lord by giving to him and made a room for him in her house.
- b. [3Jo 1:2-8 NASB95] 2 Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers. 3 For I was very glad when brethren came and testified to your truth, [that is,] how you are walking in truth. 4 I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth. 5 Beloved, you are acting faithfully in whatever you accomplish for the brethren, and especially [when they are] strangers; 6 and they have testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. 7 For they went out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. 8 Therefore we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow workers with the truth.
- c. When we honor the people of God in our lives, blessings follow.

IV. Honor manifests in several ways.

- a. Speaking good, not evil.
- b. Serving with obedience and joy.
- c. Shares financially.
 - i. [1Co 9:7-14 NASB95] 7 Who at any time serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat the fruit of it? Or who tends a flock and does not use the milk of the flock? 8 I am not speaking these things according to human judgment, am I? Or does not the Law also say these things? 9 For it is written in the Law of Moses, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING." God is not concerned about oxen, is He? 10 Or is He speaking altogether for our sake? Yes, for our sake it was written, because the plowman ought to plow in hope, and the thresher [to thresh] in hope of sharing [the crops.] 11 If we sowed spiritual things in you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? 12 If others share the right over you, do we not more? Nevertheless, we did not use this right, but we endure all things so that we will cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ. 13 Do you not know that those who perform sacred services eat the [food] of the temple, [and] those who attend regularly to the altar have their share from the altar? 14 So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.
 - ii. [Gal 6:6 NASB95] 6 The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches [him.]

- **Honoring the people of God will mark you for a miracle.**
- **Ask the Holy Spirit how to honor those He has placed in our lives better.**