

# *A Prophet With No Honor*

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John 4:43-54 Now after two days he departed thence, and went into Galilee. For Jesus himself testified, that a prophet hath no honour in his own country. Then when he was come into Galilee, the Galilaeans received him, having seen all the things that he did at Jerusalem at the feast: for they also went unto the feast. So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine.

- I. For Jesus himself testified, that a prophet hath no honour in his own country.
  - A. Jesus said this himself; He was not repeating an old saying of the people, but declaring something that is always true.
  - B. He went to Galilee knowing that He would not be respected, that the people there would only use him and expect signs and wonders from him.
  - C. Compare this to how the world honors those home folks who make it big in the world.
    1. Celebrities, singers, those who get wealthy, politicians, or anyone of fame in the world.
    2. How they are a source of pride for the town, the county, the state they grew up or were born in.
    3. Any kind of way they can identify with them they do so with pride and admiration.
  - D. It is not this way with someone who stands for God and tells people the truth about everything.
    1. He is expected to work miracles to convince them that God is with him, and no miracle is ever enough to convince them.
  - E. They will not trust what he says as coming from God to them.
    1. And it is simply because they have known him too long.
  - F. “Familiarity breeds contempt” is the same concept here.
    1. That is why most people will not stay in a church for more than 2 or 3 years before they discover that the people there are just regular human beings with all the problems that come with living in this sinful world.
    2. That is why most preachers only stay 2 or 3 years at a church before moving on; The people get familiar with him, and he with the people, and they quit listening.
  - G. Probably the hardest thing about being a pastor is the fact that people will not listen.
    1. They will not listen or heed the counsel and the instruction that God has worked into his soul for them by crushing his life over and over.
    2. They get used to his voice and his personality and the words just fall on deaf ears, while they turn to worldly friends and worldly sources for their counsel and example.
    3. They can sit in church, even in the situation we are in right now, where they are sitting 10 feet away and not listen to a word.

Ezekiel 33:30-33 Also, thou son of man, the children of thy people still are talking against thee by the walls and in the doors of the houses, and speak one to another, every one to his brother, saying, Come, I pray you, and hear what is the word that cometh forth from the LORD. And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my

people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not. And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them.

4. The only thing most people hear is when it gets a little too pointed and precise and they feel like they are being singled out.
  5. Then they go home and do what these people were doing and slice up everything that was said in front of their children and destroy their faith in God, his church, his people, and fortify them against any man to ever speak the Word of God with authority to them.
- H. But Jesus went there anyway, knowing all this; and in fact, went there because of this.
1. He went into Galilee “for” Jesus himself testified that a prophet hath no honor in his own country.
  2. It will be an important piece of evidence when we stand before God in judgement that we refused to heed the Word of God because we knew the one who was preaching it too well, and esteemed him to be their equal, or even their inferior.
  3. God has always sent his prophets and messengers in spite of the fact that the people would not listen or heed his Word and his warnings and his pleadings.

Jeremiah 7:27 Therefore thou shalt speak all these words unto them; but they will not hearken to thee: thou shalt also call unto them; but they will not answer thee.

Ezekiel 3:4-9 And he said unto me, Son of man, go, get thee unto the house of Israel, and speak with my words unto them. For thou art not sent to a people of a strange speech and of an hard language, but to the house of Israel; Not to many people of a strange speech and of an hard language, whose words thou canst not understand. Surely, had I sent thee to them, they would have hearkened unto thee. But the house of Israel will not hearken unto thee; for they will not hearken unto me: for all the house of Israel are impudent and hardhearted. Behold, I have made thy face strong against their faces, and thy forehead strong against their foreheads. As an adamant harder than flint have I made thy forehead: fear them not, neither be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house.

John 8:47-49 He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God. Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil? Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me.

- I. We are living in a time like it was then, where there was no reverence or respect, except toward the legalistic, by the letter of the law, Pharisee religion.
- J. No one ever changes anything about their life because of what they hear at church.
- K. No one is looking for reproof, rebuke, or instruction; they are looking for affirmation of what they have already believed and practice in their life.
- L. If they get the affirmation they are temporarily happy and content, but if they get the other they are ready to bail.
- M. God is not in any of this at all; it is carnal, ungodly, and has the smell of an unregenerate, unconverted, and deceived soul.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

Matthew 13:17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

Matthew 12:41-42 The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here. The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

- N. I warn you today that it is your responsibility to listen to the preaching of the Word of God and listen for God to speak to you through it.
- O. I, or any other preacher that stands and preaches to you is just a minister of the Word of God, and what you get through the preaching is not from me, but from God.
- P. The preaching is to give you an opportunity to hear from God, and if all you can see is the preacher you are going to miss God, and that spells disaster for you.