

## Treating Others with Value and Respect

Have you ever heard or met someone who you thought and were told that he or she was a nobody and you soon discovered that he was not who you initially thought nor was told he was? Or have you ever thought someone has no value only to realize that your breakthrough and the greatest miracle came through them?

This may be something you have seen in a movie, but we need to be very cautious about how we treat one another.

Pushing another person down does not get you to the top. To push or keep others down, you have to go down with them. As you push someone lower, you go lower, but lifting other people up, lifts you up. **Putting out the other person's candle doesn't light yours.**

We ought to be passionate and treat others with value and respect. This is contagious. If you catch a cold, others can't catch a fire. If your wood is wet, you can't light other woods.

Text: Philippians 2:3-4 Let nothing *be done* through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind **let each esteem other better than themselves**. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

- a) "Esteem" means to value
- b) "lowliness" means humility.
  - i) Esteeming ourselves over others is **pride** in its simplest form.
- c) Verse 4 shows how we can esteem others more than ourselves—by looking at things from other people's side and standpoint, not just ours.

i) No one is better than the other because of what they have or do not have. What we do doesn't make us better than others. You will find some people who are good in what they do but lacking in certain areas.

- Proverbs 22:2 *The rich and poor meet together: the LORD is the maker of them all.*

ii) We are all good at something, and we all have something to bring to the table.

Proverbs 11:12 *He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace.*

a) Despising others shows a lack of wisdom. We should not use our words to despise others.

The word of God teaches us to value others better than ourselves.

### 1. The Jewish slave girl.

2 Kings 5:1-4 *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 leper. [2] And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife. [3] And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy. [4] And one went in, and told his lord, saying, Thus and thus said the maid that is of the land of Israel.*

- a) This girl was a slave who God used to bring an end to the Captain's reproach.
- b) Just imagine if her mistress had not treated her well. Would she have spoken up to Naaman's eventual deliverance?
- c) How we treat each other will either open doors for us or close them.
- d) If he had treated her like a rag, this Naaman wouldn't have been healed of leprosy.
- e) Your miracle could be held back by how we treat one another—especially those that are our subordinates.

- i) Our natural tendency is to look down on those who are below us and not even give them an ear. If we continue down that road, we will miss out—big time.

## 2. Shunammite Woman

2 King 4:8-14 And it fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where *was* a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And *so* it was, *that* as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread. And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I perceive that this *is* a holy man of God, which passeth by us continually. Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall; and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither. And it fell on a day, that he came thither, and he turned into the chamber, and lay there. And he said to Gehazi his servant, Call this Shunammite. And when he had called her, she stood before him. And he said unto him, Say now unto her, Behold, thou hast been careful for us with all this care; what *is* to be done for thee? wouldest thou be spoken for to the king, or to the captain of the host? And she answered, I dwell among mine own people. And he said, What then *is* to be done for her? And Gehazi answered, Verily she hath no child, and her husband is old.

- a) One of the way we express value to others is through our generosity.
- b) The value this woman placed on the man of God was a doorway for her to receive her son and eventually having him raised from the dead.

## 3. Four lepers

2 Kings 7:3-10 *And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate: and they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die? If we say, We will enter into the city, then the famine is in the city, and we shall die there: and if we sit still here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die. And they rose up in the twilight, to go unto the camp of the Syrians: and when they were come to the uttermost part of the camp of Syria, behold, there was no man there. For the Lord had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, even the noise of a great host: and they said one to another, Lo, the king of Israel hath hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us. Wherefore they arose and fled in the twilight, and left their tents, and their horses, and their asses, even the camp as it was, and fled for their life. And when these lepers came to the uttermost part of the camp, they went into one tent, and did eat and drink, and carried thence silver, and gold, and raiment, and went and hid it; and came again, and entered into*

*another tent, and carried thence also, and went and hid it. Then they said one to another, We do not well: this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace: if we tarry till the morning light, some mischief will come upon us: now therefore come, that we may go and tell the king's household. So they came and called unto the porter of the city: and they told them, saying, We came to the camp of the Syrians, and, behold, there was no man there, neither voice of man, but horses tied, and asses tied, and the tents as they were.*

- a) God worked a powerful miracle and brought provision through the hands of four lepers. The so-called rejects of the society believed God and stepped out in faith and acquired a victory for the whole nation of Israel.
  - i) Although they were rejected by society, they chose to do what was right, anyway. They could have had hatred and ill against their fellows, but they didn't. They weren't having a "reject mentality."
  - ii) God has a habit of doing things in the least expected way. No one could or would have predicted God doing this through lepers—yet He did.
- b) The people that were outcasts were used by God to bring an end to the famine in Samaria.
- c) How we treat others will either cause us to triumph or not.
  - i) We should be careful about the way we treat one another. Our victory could lie in how we treat one another. No one is better than the other because of what they have or do not have.
- d) Who would have thought God was going to end the famine this way? But He did, all through these lepers.
- e) If the king and his men never gave them any audience because of their social status, then all the people would have starved to death.

#### 4. Honor all men.

*1 Peter 2:17 Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.*

- a) The word "*honor*" comes from a Greek word that means "prize, that is, fix a valuation"
  - b) This is speaking of showing respect. We ought to treat other people with respect. This includes the ones we don't like. We can dislike a person yet be respectful of them.
  - c) We should show people respect regardless of their sex, age, background, race, social status, financial status, education, physical appearance and so forth. What we have, do, look like, should never be a reason to disrespect others. We ought to show respect to all.
  - d) Honor is something that is slowly deteriorating in our time. Many folks have no honor for authority, elderly, leadership, and older.
5. Proverbs 14:31 He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoreth him hath mercy on the poor.
- a) This verse indicates that reproaching the poor is similar to reproaching the Lord.