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No Honor in Your Own Home

“And they took offense at Him. But Jesus said to them, ‘A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household’” (Matthew 13:57 NASB).

Men have always been born under the power of “blood” relations, the will of the flesh, and the will of man. These forces sway us in powerful ways from our youth. Jesus was born under the expectation that He too would submit to these powers. But He didn’t.

Soon after beginning His ministry, Jesus’ family sought to take Him aside: *“While He was still speaking to the crowds, behold, His mother and brothers were standing outside, seeking to speak to Him”* (Matthew 12:46). Maybe they wanted to “save” Him from embarrassment after He began publicly rebuking the Pharisees. Perhaps they felt His behavior was “dishonoring” them before the people. Whatever the case, they were saying, “Stop what you are doing right now and attend to our will.” But Jesus was not guilty of “dishonoring” His family before God—He honored His Heavenly Father and obeyed God’s law to honor His earthly mother as God desired, even if it wasn’t to His family’s expectations. No matter what Jesus did, He could never do it right in His family’s eyes: *“Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was near. Therefore His brothers said to Him, ‘Leave here and go into Judea, so that Your disciples also may see Your works which You are doing. For no one does anything in secret when he himself seeks to be known publicly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world.’ For not even His brothers were believing in Him. So Jesus said to them, ‘My time is not yet here, but your time is always opportune’”* (John 7:2-6). If Jesus focused on His mission, He was “ignoring and disgracing them,” but if He took

time to be with them, they criticized Him for not doing things right. Everything was “opportune” to them if it was in their will and timing.

Jesus was persecuted, harassed, and rejected because He didn’t live up to the expectations of His family, community, or society. When He *“came to His hometown and began teaching them in their synagogue”* they took offense because He appealed to His Heavenly Father’s will alone and did not submit to the expectations they had regarding His “blood” relations (Matt. 13:54-58). He could have easily been accepted by them if He did what they wanted Him to do, but He told them, *“I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me”* (John 6:38).

For this reason, He answered the man who told Him to stop preaching and attend to His family’s will: *“‘Who is My mother and who are My brothers?’ And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, ‘Behold My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother’”* (Matthew 12:48-50). Jesus was revealing that God was making a new family—the family of the Heavenly Father, responsible to one another in God’s will, made up of people *“who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God”* (John 1:13). These people are freed from the will of blood relations, flesh, and man—born of the will of God to live for Him as His children—brothers and sisters in God’s household.

Thanks be to God that Jesus didn’t live for His own will, nor the will of His family and community! He lived for His Father’s will, which was that He bring salvation from sin to all mankind—in God’s way and timing. In our own struggles with the will of our blood, our flesh, and man, may we fix our eyes on Christ’s example and “be alive” for the will of our Father in Heaven. Even so, Amen!

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