

Study Guide-Honor God and He Will Honor You

March 8, 2026

This study guide explores the theological and historical redefinition of "honor" through the lens of Christianity, as presented in the message based on 1 Samuel 2:30. It contrasts Roman and modern societal views of status, reputation, and power with the sacrificial humility exemplified by Jesus Christ.

Study Quiz

1. What is the core definition of "honor" provided in the text, and how does the cultural focus of this term differ between the United States and Mexico?
 2. Explain the competitive nature of honor in Roman times and describe how public status was gained or lost during that era.
 3. According to the message, how do modern social media platforms function similarly to the ancient Roman arena in terms of status and recognition?
 4. Based on 1 Corinthians 1:18, why is the message of the cross perceived differently by those who are "perishing" versus those who are "being saved"?
 5. What does the "last shall be first" principle teach regarding God's valuation of humility over social status?
 6. How does the sermon define the kingdom of God in the context of the parable of the vineyard workers found in Matthew 20:1-16?
 7. In the Old Testament (Exodus 23:4-5), what are the specific instructions regarding the lost or burdened animal of an enemy?
 8. How did King David demonstrate his commitment to his enemies' well-being in Psalm 35:12-13, and what specific garment did he wear to show his mourning?
 9. Describe the Roman practice of "scourging" as it was applied to Jesus Christ, including the tools used and the physical effects on the body.
 10. What was the symbolic significance of the scarlet robe and the crown of thorns used by the Roman soldiers to mock Jesus Christ?
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Answer Key

1. Honor is defined as respect and great esteem. In the United States, it focuses on personal ethics, reputation, and accountability, while in Mexico, it is more closely connected to family pride, respect for elders, and protecting family dignity.
 2. In the Roman era, honor was competitive, meaning one person had to take it from another to gain it. It was a public status dependent on rank and power; public recognition was essential, and shame could completely damage one's social standing.
 3. Modern social media functions like the Roman arena because reputation is public and digital, with status measured by visibility and influence. Instead of public applause, people today use likes, shares, and follows to elevate or shame others in a competitive environment.
 4. The Scripture explains that the message of the cross sounds like foolishness to those who are spiritually lost or perishing. However, for those being saved, it is recognized as the power of God.
 5. Jesus Christ taught that God values a humble heart over wealth, position, or public recognition. In God's kingdom, those who humble themselves or are overlooked by society may be honored first, while those who prioritize their own greatness may end up last.
 6. The sermon teaches that the kingdom is built on grace rather than entitlement. This is illustrated by the fact that all workers received the same wage regardless of how many hours they labored, which humbles man and removes the ability to boast.
 7. The Law commands that if you see your enemy's ox or donkey going astray, you must surely bring it back to him. Furthermore, if the animal of someone who hates you is struggling under a burden, you are required to help him with it rather than ignoring the situation.
 8. King David responded to those who rewarded him evil for good by mourning for them when they were sick. He wore "sackcloth," a sign of deep mourning and humility, to show his inward sorrow for those who treated him as an enemy.
 9. Scourging was a brutal Roman punishment involving a leather whip embedded with sharp pieces of bone or metal. It caused deep wounds and intense pain, often tearing the flesh off the back of the individual as the whip was pulled away.
 10. While the soldiers intended the scarlet robe to mock Jesus Christ, it actually represented His royalty and kingship. The crown of thorns and the robe symbolized the sacrifice He made to bear the sins of humanity, mimicking the nakedness and shame of the fall of man to redeem them.
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Essay Questions for Further Reflection

1. **The Great Reversal:** Discuss how Christianity "flipped honor on its head" by choosing to follow a crucified man, contrasting the Roman view of power as domination with the Christian view of power as sacrificial love.
2. **Defining the Neighbor:** Analyze the sermon's comparison between "cancel culture" and the narrow definition of "neighbor" used by religious leaders in Jesus Christ's time. How does the biblical definition of a neighbor challenge modern social interactions?
3. **The Nature of Humility:** Explore the statement, "Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less." How does this perspective change one's relationship with God and others?
4. **Grace vs. Entitlement:** Using the parable of the vineyard workers, examine why the concept of grace is often difficult for those who prioritize merit-based status and public recognition.
5. **The Passion and Dehumanization:** Reflect on the garrison of 200 to 600 men surrounding Jesus Christ during His trial. Discuss the contrast between the soldiers' "honoring" of Caesar through violence and the true honor displayed by Jesus Christ's endurance.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Agape Love:** A sacrificial, unconditional love that exists without strings attached or hidden agendas; the highest form of love, exemplified by Jesus Christ laying down His life for His friends.
- **Battalion/Garrison:** A military unit consisting of anywhere between 200 and 600 soldiers; in the context of the crucifixion, this refers to the large group that surrounded Jesus Christ in the Praetorium.
- **Cancel Culture:** A modern societal phenomenon where individuals are silenced, isolated, or removed from a community if their views do not align with the masses.
- **Grace:** Undeserved favor and blessings from God; the foundational principle of His kingdom that humbles individuals by removing the basis for boasting.
- **Honor:** At its core, respect and great esteem; historically viewed by Romans as public status and rank, but redefined by Jesus Christ as a matter of humble service.
- **Praetorium:** The governor's headquarters or a large hall where the Roman soldiers gathered to mock and strip Jesus Christ before His crucifixion.
- **Sackcloth:** A coarse, rough fabric usually made from goat's hair; worn as an outward sign of deep mourning, personal sorrow, or seeking God's mercy.

- **Scourging:** A severe punishment involving whipping with a specialized leather tool designed to inflict maximum physical trauma and humiliation.

Greek Terminology

Word	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition
Agape ^[^1]	uh-GAH-pay	The essential meaning of sacrificial love; loving someone without any strings attached or an agenda behind it.

[^1]: This term is used in the study guide to describe the "greater love" mentioned in John 15:13, where Jesus Christ speaks of laying down one's life for friends.