

Introduction:

- *"Anyone who does not honor the Son is certainly not honoring the Father who sent him."* (John 5:23, NLT)
- Tonights message has to do with fasting but we will be taking the long way around to get there.
- My parents named me Timmy at birth. It was a name I was teased about growing up. The good thing about it was I was Lassie's best friend. Call me Tim, Timothy, just not Timmy.
 - The name is really a great name. There is actually a Timothy in the Bible and he was Paul's favorite.
 - Τιμή, it is the Greek word for honor. Τιμη means to ascribe value and worth to and in so doing you demonstrate honor. Τιμαο, the verb form, is one who honors...one who honors God.
 - Since taking my first Greek class in college I began embracing my name by definition...one who honors God. That is not a bad thing to be known as. Actually, as you read the word it is something we should aspire to do well.
- In John 5, our text has to do with the relationship that the Son and the Father share.

I. What Is The Best Way To Honor Christ?

- A. The best way to honor Christ is obedience. The 5th commandment reads: *"Honor your father and mother..."* What is that about? Obedience. The obedience we are talking about is the one that Jesus spoke of. "If you love me you will obey my commands." It is an obedience from the heart out of love not from behavior out of the rules.
- B. "To obey is better than sacrifice." *"But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to the Lord: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams."* (1 Samuel 15:22, NLT) - vs. 24. Five things we get out of these verses:
 1. Disobedience - is an act of rebellion.
 2. Disobedience - is a sinful act. 15:24
 3. Disobedience - is a form of idolatry.
 4. Disobedience - is disrespect for God's Word, therefore disrespect of Him.
 5. Disobedience - is based on looking good for others and not for God to see.
 6. How do the above five compare to obedience? They are the opposite. Totally different heart.
 - a) If I want to look good from God's eyes I will obey with joy.
 - b) I will respect His word.
 - c) I will worship only Him.
 - d) I will joyfully obey
 - e) I will humbly accept His leadership in my life.
- C. Same point as above, different address. *"No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."* (Micah 6:8, NLT)
 1. Do what is right
 2. Love mercy
 3. Walk humbly.

- D. Disciples blasted for eating grain on the Sabbath. *"But you would not have condemned my innocent disciples if you knew the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.'" (Matthew 12:7, NLT)*
1. Called to show mercy
 2. Not to make sacrifices.
- E. *"I want you to show love, not offer sacrifices. I want you to know me more than I want burnt offerings."* (Hosea 6:6, NLT) The desire of God is two fold here:
1. to show love.
 2. and know Him more.
- F. IS 58:6-ff.
1. The heart of fasting must not be connected to the work(s) of it, but to honoring God through showing mercy in doing the things mentioned in the passage.
 2. God is all about the mercy! It is what He has given us and desires us to give others.

II. The Greatest Way To Honor God

- A. Is obedience to His commands from a humble and contrite heart.
- B. Keith Green Song:

To obey is better than sacrifice
 I don't need your money
 I want your life
 And I hear you say that I'm coming back soon
 But you act like I'll never return

Well you speak of grace and my love so sweet
 How you thrive on milk, but reject my meat
 And I can't help weeping of how it will be
 If you keep on ignoring my words
 Well you pray to prosper and succeed
 But your flesh is something I just can't feed

To obey is better than sacrifice
 I want more than Sunday and Wednesday nights
 Cause if you can't come to me every day
 Then don't bother coming at all
 La, la, la etc.

To obey is better than sacrifice
 I want hearts of fire
 Not your prayers of ice
 And I'm coming quickly
 To give back to you
 According to what you have done
 According to what you have done
 According to what you have done