

Short Talk

(SHT145)

How do we honour Jesus?

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ALL AGE WORSHIP
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SHORT TALK: “How do we honour Jesus?”

- Aim of Short talk:** To challenge people to look at how they honour Jesus in their lives.
- Use of Short talk:** This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands alone and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.
- Main themes:** Honour, Jesus, Serving, Listening, Giving
- Biblical references:** Luke 12:1-8
- Lectionary:** Year C – The 5th Sunday of Lent
- People:** You will need 3 volunteers for this talk.
- One person to be the Queen,
 - One person to be a Teacher,
 - One person who has a birthday (either a child who has recently had a birthday party, or an elderly person who has recently celebrated a big birthday by having a meal laid on in their honour)
- Props:** You will need the following props:
- a simple crown for the queen and a piece of card with the word GIFTS on it.
 - an academic gown or hat or piece of chalk for the teacher and a piece of card with the word LISTEN on it.
 - a balloon for the birthday person and a piece of card with the word SERVE on it.
- Before the service:** Ask your musicians to be ready to play the 1st 3 lines of the National Anthem as soon as you say the words: “*How do we honour her?*”
- You also need to prime a couple of people in the front rows to stand up as soon as they hear the National Anthem played.

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Could my 3 volunteers come forward now please? (3 volunteers stand at the front and you give them the appropriate props to wear/hold)

Let me introduce you this morning to:

- The Queen,
- A Teacher, and
- N whose birthday was not long ago.

The question I want to ask you to think about is this: “How do we honour these people?”

Let's begin with the Queen.

- How do we honour her? *(Immediately your musicians play the National anthem and the people you have primed in the front rows stand up, hopefully triggering other members of the congregation to stand up as well)*
- Do sit down.

One of the ways we honour the queen is by standing when the National Anthem is played.

- Another way of honouring her is by giving her gifts.
- When heads of estate come to visit our queen they will often bring with them all sorts of unusual gifts to give to her, to honour her. *(Give the Queen the card saying "GIFTS" on it to hold for the congregation to see)*

Moving on....how do we honour our teachers? *(Receive responses)*

- One of the ways that we honour our teachers is to listen to them isn't it?
- When they are talking to us, we don't ignore them, or mess about, but we listen to what they have to say. *(Give the Teacher the card saying "LISTEN" on it to hold for the congregation to see)*

And finally what about the birthday boy or girl? How do we honour them? *(Receive responses)*

- One of the ways that we honour people on their birthdays is to make them a special birthday tea or meal;
- we serve them. *(Give the Birthday person the card saying "SERVE" on it to hold for the congregation to see)*

So having thought about how we honour the Queen, a teacher and someone having a birthday, I wonder how we honour Jesus?

Maybe we can learn from some of Jesus' friends; Lazarus, Mary and Martha, who lived in Bethany.

- John's Gospel tells us that when Jesus visited them *"a dinner was given in Jesus' honour. Martha served."* (John 12:2)

Martha spent time putting on a special meal for Jesus. She served Him. *(Point to card saying "SERVE")*

- One of the ways that we can honour Jesus is by using the gifts that God has given us to serve Him; be that at work, at school or at church.
- When we do something for someone else in Jesus' name, we are serving Jesus.

Back to Bethany, we are told that Lazarus reclined at the table with Jesus.

- He wasn't sitting in another room, but he sat with Jesus, no doubt listening to what Jesus had to say. *(Point to card saying "LISTEN")*
- One of the ways that we can honour Jesus is by spending time alone with Him as well as all together;
- listening to what He has to say to us as we read our Bibles and pray.

Jesus' friend Mary honoured Jesus by giving Him an extremely precious gift. *(Point to card saying "GIFTS")*

She took some very expensive perfume, which we are told was worth a whole year's wages and poured it over Jesus' feet as an act of generous and lavish love.

- To Mary Jesus was worth squandering a whole year's wages upon.
- Wow.....what a way to show Jesus honour.
- One of the ways that we can honour Jesus is by giving Him our gifts of money, worship, love and trust.

You know sometimes we can forget to honour Jesus.

- We can be so focused on what we get from Jesus;
- His love, His forgiveness, His peace, His gifts,
- that we forget that He is the person we most need to honour in our lives.

So today let me encourage you to think about how you are honouring Jesus in your life.

- Does the way that you **serve** at work, school and church honour Jesus? (PAUSE)
- Does the amount of time you give to **listening** to Jesus in prayer and Bible reading honour Him? (PAUSE)
- Does the level of your **giving** honour Him? (PAUSE) Amen.