

Scott's Thoughts

April 21, 2024



“So Haman came in, and the king said to him, “What should be done to the man whom the king delights to honor?” And Haman said to himself, “Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?” (Esther 6:6, ESV).

In the above verse Haman is a self-absorbed and self-elevated Babylonian who has great hate or intense dislike for all Jews. He is in a position of authority and enjoys a comfortable relationship with the king whom he tries to manipulate. It seems that his plan to rid Babylon of all Jews will succeed, but Haman is not as smart as he thinks he is. He failed because he was a manipulative man, not an honorable one. Keeping that in mind, I want to think about the word “honor.”

Truth is, most of us are not honored because we have a narrow field of interests. We focus only on things that affect us, which could explain why the voter turnout in local elections is so low. I wonder what would happen if more of us, me included, would take a greater part in our community. We could make an impact by getting involved in all aspects of life. We could get out and vote. We could show up for a public meeting. We could kindly voice our concerns. We could become more involved in community service and so much more.

What makes someone worthy of honor? I believe honor should be given to those citizens around us who go above and beyond what is expected from them but are never recognized or commended publicly for their efforts. There are many in our community who go

about their lives doing little things to help others. Day in and day out, they work in the background and make various contributions to the community and quietly make a big difference for their neighbors and our town. After a lifetime of giving of themselves, many will age, and withdraw to their homes without ever knowing the great impact they have had on the lives of others. Many of these people who deserve honor and recognition will not receive it until the day of their funeral.

I believe we should honor our war heroes. Our nation reserves the “Medal of Honor” for members of the military who have done great acts of heroism. The medal is rarely given, and it is often awarded many years after their act of heroism occurred. The standard for receiving the “Medal of Honor” is set very high and before it is awarded, they make a thorough investigation.

One who deserves honor above all others is God, but mankind, as a whole, has not given Him the honor he deserves. Many refuse to even acknowledge His existence in spite of the fact that we would not exist if it were not for Him. *“for In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “‘For we are indeed his offspring.’” (Acts 17:28, (ESV).* We are indeed His creation. Honor Him!

On Monday April 15, 2024 I lost a dear friend who quietly served the families of his community in their great hour of need. To Lewis Hickenbottem I dedicate these thoughts.

“Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.” (Romans 13:7, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining.

—Scott