

“A Glimpse of God’s Glory” John 17:1-5

The last time I preached, I preached on Jesus’ mysterious statement,

¹⁶ “A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father.” John 16:16 (NKJV)

I explained to you what Jesus also explained: that Jesus’ going out of the realm of their physical sight to the Father, up to Heaven, meant they would SEE HIM BETTER! They would SEE better because they would see the spiritual, moral, God-glorious Jesus, not the physical, seemingly mere-man Jesus! Jesus’ prayer here in John 17 starts with a prayer that Jesus would be glorified! Not the physical Jesus, but the Spiritual, Moral, Son-of-the-Living-&-True-God Jesus! God, the Father would glorify Jesus in the cross’s work. Not because the cross itself was glorious, but Jesus’ taking it was. Let us examine the start of Jesus’ last recorded prayer before He took the cross for our salvation!

I. Note the correct uniqueness of the start of the prayer –

¹⁷ Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, John 17:1 (NKJV)

1. Note how beautifully opposite the posture of this prayer is from a correct sinner’s prayer –

¹³ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ Luke 18:13 (NKJV)

A. See Jesus lifts His eyes up to Heaven, which is right, He prays as the sinless Son of God!

B. The sin-FULL tax collector is CORRECT NOT to raise his eyes to heaven-“would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven...”

2. Jesus prays for His own glory, none of us should ever pray for our own glory but only for God’s. Jesus’ praying this way is because He is God –

⁸ I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images. Isaiah 42:8 (NKJV)

... And I will not give My glory to another. Isaiah 48:11 B (NKJV)

Jesus is right to pray for His own glory because He is God! He is God’s Son. For any of us to pray that we would be “glorified” would be a great and arrogant SIN!

3. Seeking his own glory was and is the great sin of Satan –

¹² “How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! ¹³ For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ ¹⁵ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the pit. Isaiah 14:12–15 (NKJV)

4. Seeking our own glory is wrong for us as mere men, we are taught in Scripture to do the opposite –

A. *The tax collected I mentioned before is praised by Jesus for his humble admission of sin –*
¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” Luke 18:14 (NKJV)

B. *We are taught throughout Scripture the value of humility -*
⁴ For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation. Psalm 149:4 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud. Proverbs 16:19 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. James 4:10 (NKJV)

C. *Even our Lord Jesus, because He takes the place of SINNERS ‘humbles Himself’ –*
⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Philippians 2:8 (NKJV)

5. *Yet, Jesus’ humility and self-sacrifice, as ordained by God and embraced by Jesus are so DIFFERENT than what is typical of man, that they are DESERVING of GLORY –*
⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:9–11 (NKJV)

A. *His (God’s) ways are not our ways –*
⁷ Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. ⁸ “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. ⁹ “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:7–9 (NKJV)

*“Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I have founded empires. But on what did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded his empire upon love; and at this hour millions of men would die for him.”
Napoleon Bonaparte*

B. *The Book of Revelation shows us a Heavenly response to Jesus’ glory as displayed in His CROSS –*
⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, ¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.” ¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!” ¹³ And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: “Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!” ¹⁴ Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever. Revelation 5:9–14 (NKJV)

The more we see Jesus correctly, as our Redeemer, the more our praise will include the kind of singing, loud voice praise, beautiful wording and fall- down and worship PRAISE we read about in Revelation 5. In our culture this kind of excitement is expressed more at sporting events and Rock concerts than in churches. When in churches at all, it is too often excitement for excitement's sake! Jesus is RIGHT to pray to be GLORIFIED, because He as the Godman is worthy of glory and because His work on the cross is worthy of glory!

II. *Jesus' first goal in prayer and in His obedience unto death was to glorify God*
—**Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, John 17:1 (NKJV)**

1. *Jesus' death on the cross, His merciful attitude expressed even from the cross, ³⁴Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." ... Luke 23:34 (NKJV) demonstrate God's love and compassion, His willingness to forgive that we read of elsewhere in Scripture –*

¹⁰ **He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹ **For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; ¹² As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³ **As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. ¹⁴ For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. Psalm 103:10–14 (NKJV)**

2. *The glory of God prayed for by Jesus is SO NEEDED in our world because God is too often seen as in the image of those whom He has created yet have rebelled against Him!*

A. *What is the atheist's #1 argument against God? Isn't it EVIL in the world? Yet, they are most often the CAUSE of that EVIL!*

B. *Yet, sadly so too are professing Christians ...*

3. *When we pray "Hallowed be Your Name" as instructed by Jesus, we are also praying God would be glorified. We are not to pray for our own glory, but it is certainly right to pray for and live for God's –*

W. S. C. Question 1 What is the chief end of man? Answer: Man's chief end is to glorify God, (1 Corinthians 10:31, Revelation 4:11) and to enjoy him forever. (Psalm 73:25–26)

III. *This leads to the second reason for Jesus' prayer, God's / Jesus' being glorified, our knowledge of Him, leads to our salvation –*

... Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, ² as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17:1 B –3 (NKJV)

1. *Our salvation, our eternal life, is dependent upon how correct our knowledge of God and Jesus Christ are:*

A. *Glorify God here is equivalent to making Him known, as the Word made flesh, Jesus did and does that –*

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14 (NKJV)

¹⁸ No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*. John 1:18 (NKJV)

B. As Jesus is made known, glorified, so is God the Father and so, through the teaching of theology, the knowledge and study of God, people attain ETERNAL LIFE!

2. This is the whole reason preacher preach and pastors teach, to glorify God and to save souls –

¹¹ And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; Ephesians 4:11–13 (NKJV)

3. This is not the purpose of pastors / teachers only but the entire church, we are all called to glorify God –

³¹ Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31 (NKJV)

IV. Jesus Christ's view of His own work, His accomplishment –

⁴ I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵ And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. John 17:4–5 (NKJV)

1. Jesus did perfectly, completely what we (all the rest of the human beings who have ever lived) FAIL AT – ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23 (NKJV)

A. Romans 3:23 The verse literally means that we've missed the mark, we shot arrows but missed the bullseye.

B. Jesus never missed one shot, never misspoke, never failed to do every good deed, never lacked to pray every prayer, even with perfect godly fervency!

C. He loved God with all His heart, soul, mind and might and His neighbor as Himself, therefore He deserved glory!

2. By God's grace, we rejoice because Jesus' glorious righteousness can be credited and gifted to us –

²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:20–21 (NKJV)

3. As His, "ambassadors for Christ" we glorify God by telling others about Him, and living, by the power of His Spirit in a way that honors Him. We should live to hear from Jesus –

²³ His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' Matthew 25:23 (NKJV)

See also Ephesians 2:8-10!