

Jesus Prays for Himself

John 17:1-5

1 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, 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. 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. NKJV

As we come to this section of John's gospel we have come to holy ground. No other part of scripture gives us such a glimpse into the holy communication between the Father and the Son.

The other gospels record the struggle in Gethsemane where Jesus prays with great earnestness and sweats great drops of blood, Luke tells us.

But John chooses to give us an account of a different prayer uttered by Jesus that night. A prayer that addresses the challenges that Jesus was to face but also records His intercession on behalf of the fledgling disciples. And there is also in this prayer the part where Jesus prays not only for those apostles but He prays for all believers until the end of time.

So I won't have you take off your shoes as Moses was commanded to do, but understand the great holiness of the passage before us.

I. "Father, the hour has come.

II. Glorify Your Son

A. Glorify Your Son

1. John 12:27-29 27 "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again." 29 Therefore the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him." NKJV
2. Unlike man who is constantly trying to glorify himself, God deserves all glory and honor.
3. As Jesus sees the coming humiliation and shame of the cross, He longs for the glory which He enjoyed before the incarnation.
4. The suffering that He is to undergo is real, just as real as it would have been for you or me.
5. But notice also that Jesus prays that the Father might glorify Him.

- a. It is not something that He will do for Himself.
 - b. Like the temptation to make the stones bread, or cast Himself down from the temple, He refused to do because it would have served His own self and not God's glory.
- B. That Your Son also may glorify You
- 1. The ultimate goal of the entire life of Jesus was to bring glory to the Father.
 - 2. That is why Jesus was so unlike the first Adam.
 - a. The first Adam pursued a path that benefitted self rather than honor God.
 - b. But Jesus will humble Himself to death, even the death on the cross.
 - c. There for God will exalt Him: Phil 2:5-11 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 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. 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. NKJV
- C. As You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.
- 1. Here we see the co-equality in the Godhead.
 - 2. All three are responsible for giving eternal life.
 - a. The Father who gives them to the Son to redeem.
 - b. The Son who gives them eternal life.
 - c. And the Holy Spirit who is said to quicken them as He will.
 - (1) John 3:8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." NKJV
 - (2) John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. NKJV

- D. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.
 - 1. How simple a formula.
 - a. Not a list of one hundred dos and don'ts
 - b. Satan has always tried to muddy the waters.
 - c. He makes things more complicated in order to get people from seeing the simple truth.
 - 2. To know God and His Son Jesus Christ is eternal life.
 - a. It is not in baptism, or church membership.
 - b. It is not in keeping your nose clean.
 - c. It is not in ordinances, or sacraments.
 - d. It is not in what you know but Who you know.
- III. I have glorified You on the earth.
 - A. Jesus is declaring His own faithfulness to the plan He and the Father had made in eternity.
 - B. Jesus never sought glory for Himself.
- IV. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.
 - A. He has fulfilled every jot and tittle in the law. Matt 5:18
 - B. He was the perfect sinless Son that none other of God's creation could ever be.
 - C.
- V. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself,
- VI. With the glory which I had with You before the world was.
 - A. The process that began before the world began is coming to a close.
 - B. God's great plan to redeem fallen mankind back to Himself is about to be fully paid for.
 - 1. Jesus paid for it and it will surely come to pass.
 - 2. God's clock is never slow or fast.
 - 3. He works all things according to the counsel of His own will.
 - 4. And one day, more than a thousand years from now, Jesus will deliver up the kingdom to the Father and God will be all in all.
 - 5. 1 Cor 15:24-28

24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. 27 For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. 28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all. NKJV

What a grand and glorious day. And God has given us a glimpse of eternity.

Are you ready for it.

Do you know God, not about God, but do you know God?

He is willing to reveal Himself to you today if you will humbly come to Him in repentance and faith and give yourself to Him.