**Livin’ the Life**

**Jesus’ Hour of Glory**

**John 17:1-5**

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We are in our series in the Gospel of John, Livin’ the Life, looking at the life of Jesus and the life he promises us. For three weeks, we are going to look at Jesus’ Great Prayer in John 17. Today we are looking at verses 1-5, where Jesus prays for himself in my message entitled Jesus’ Hour of Glory.

This prayer is a window into the heart of Jesus. Reading to his prayer tells us a lot about him, his heart, and his priorities. If you look at the prayer as a whole, Jesus starts with himself; then his disciples; then future disciples who will believe. Yet he prays for God’s purposes for himself and for his disciples.

**The Glory of Jesus in the Cross (1-3)**

I find it instructive that though Jesus is going to the cross, this prayer is triumphant rather than doom and gloom. Though he will suffer greatly and die on the cross he is fulfilling God’s eternal purposes. Since humanity rebelled and sinned (Gen 3), human history has been moving to this hour. The cross is the climax of human history, securing the new birth (Jn 3), the new covenant (Lk 22:20), and ultimately the new creation (2 Cor 5:17; Rev 21:5). Jesus begins his prayer by asking his Father, glorify your Son *so that* the Son may glorify you. The ultimate purpose of the cross is God’s glory. The most shameful and humiliating way a person could die at the time becomes the clearest and greatest display of God’s glory (John 13:31–32; 17:1; 5). What is humiliating in human eyes is beautiful in God’s eyes. What does Jesus mean when he asks to be glorified in the cross? Glory in this gospel has to do with the way Jesus makes God the Father known to the world. God’s truth is revealed through Jesus’ word; God’s power is revealed through Jesus’ signs; and God’s sacrificial and self-giving love is revealed through the cross. Out of love (13:1), Jesus submitted to the Father by becoming the mediator between God and humanity (1 Tim 2:5). The eternal Son of God humbled himself by taking on human nature to serve humanity (Phil 2:6-8). He subjected himself to humiliation, rejection, hate on the human side and to his Father’s judgement and wrath on the divine side so that our salvation is secured (Rev 5:9).

Then Jesus gives the reason for his request to be glorified. Glorify me so that I may glorify you *since or because* you have given me authority over humanity to give eternal life to all whom the Father given him (2). Jesus is the only authorized agent of salvation. Jesus coming to overcome our sin on the cross is God’s plan for undoing what Adam brought upon the human race. When the first Adam rebelled against God and sinned, the human race was condemned by sin and death came through sin (Rom 5:12). Jesus is the last Adam (1 Cor 15:45) who was given authority as our representative to undo sin and guilt and death by his own death on the cross. Jesus exercised his authority to give eternal life by going to the cross to secured eternal life. But is this eternal life for all? No, it is limited to those whom the Father has given him (6:37; 39; 17:6, 9, 24). None of us can believe in Jesus on our own. Following Jesus, becoming a Christian cannot possibly be something you just decide to do. To be a Christian means you sense something from the outside has come in and grabbed you in the center of your being, and is dealing with you. It’s changing you, and it has gripped you. It’s your Creator recreating you; it’s your maker remaking you. Every gardener knows how to maintain the life of their vegetables. You don’t just ignore it. You don’t plant vegetables and say, in three months, I’ll go out and see what I have. I cultivate them, water them, and fertilize them. I remove bad growth or prune them for optimal production. The plants respond to my work as the gardener. Christianity is like the Great Gardner cultivating his garden. The Gardener plants and waters and cultivates and prunes us and we respond to his gracious work in our lives. Are you responding to the Great Gardener?

Then Jesus defines eternal life as the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent (3). Notice he does not say that you can know or find God any way you want. Jesus says you have to know the only and true God. There’s one God and there’s a true God and so there are all kinds of false gods and all kinds of false beliefs. People want to define or find God the way they want. You may treat an object that way but you don’t treat a person you don’t know that way. What if someone came up to you who did not know you and said, I like to think of you as insincere or harsh or an unloving person. You would respond that I am not something you have a right to think of any way you want. I am a person and if you want to know me, you have to know me as I am. You have to listen to me and find out who I really am. You can’t just decide what you think about me without knowing me. How dare any of us say, I like to think of God as we want. How dare we treat God in a way we wouldn’t let anyone treat us. What Jesus is saying then is that you have to find out what God says he is like and who he really is. If you are not a Christian, then find out what God is like by reading the bible. So Jesus prays to be glorified so that he will glorify the Father because he has been authorized to bring eternal life.

**The Glory of Jesus in his Earthly Life (4)**

The basis or the reason for this request is because Jesus has glorified the Father in during his earthly ministry. Jesus has glorified the Father by living an obedient life (Heb 4:15; 7:27-28; 2:10; 5:9; Phil 2:7-8). Jesus lived a sinless life in fulfilling his mission as the one sent to reveal the Father and die for our sins. Does this mean that the Son is less than the Father? No as they are equal in nature, of the same substance, as God. But out of love for us and sake of their own glory, the Son gladly submits to the Father, in his role as Son. So because he was obedient to the Father during his earthly ministry, he was qualified to ask the Father to glorify him in the cross so that he in turn would glorify the Father to bring eternal life to his own.

**The Glory of Jesus in his Exaltation (5)**

Then Jesus draws a conclusion, because I glorified you on earth, glorify me with former glory I had in eternity (1:1-2). In the incarnation his divine glory was veiled. Jesus glorified the Father in his life and death and resurrection and so asks to be crowned with his former glory, the glory shared in eternity with the Father (Phil 2:9-11; Heb 2:9). The Father glorified the Son because he loves the Son and has given him all things (3:35; 5:20; 13:3). The glory of cross secured the new birth; the new covenant; and the new creation in which we experience the presence of Jesus and see his glory for all eternity (17:24). The most pleasure in eternity will be perception of his glory (Jude 1:24-25).

Questions for Life Groups:

1. Why do you think Jesus lifted up his eyes to pray? Is there benefit to our posture in prayer?
2. Can you think of other common postures of prayer in the bible?
3. What is the ultimate reason that Jesus goes to the cross?
4. What does Jesus mean when he asks the Father to Glorify him so that the he may glorify the Father?
5. What is eternal life? How is dis described differently than other places in John?
6. Can you describe a time that you confused about what God was doing in your life? Where you had misplaced hope?
7. What does Jesus mean that he glorified the Father on earth?
8. What does Jesus mean when he asks to be glorified with the glory he had before the world began?
9. How is God speaking to you from this passage/sermon?
10. How is God asking you to respond and obey him?