

John's Gospel @ CF!

John 16:17:1-5

Sermon notes – BK

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We have come a long way in John...

These last several chapters (since the beginning of 13) are covering the last hours before His betrayal and death...

Amazing and full teaching of Jesus.

Jesus is building up His disciples to prepare for what was to come.

- **Jesus knew what was coming**
- **The disciples did not**

Jesus warned them –

- They would be **put out of synagogues**
- They would be **killed**
- They would be **hated**
- They would also be **separated from Jesus**
- They would **have trouble**
- They would **scatter and abandon Jesus**

- **For, “...a little while...”**

He also comforted them –

- He would **send them the Holy Spirit to be with them, to guide and to comfort**
- Their **sorrow would turn to joy**

- Jesus has, is and will... OVERCOME it all!

Then we read something very special in John 17...

The greatest prayer ever recorded in the Bible.

John 17 "The High Priestly Prayer"

This is what I call the *“When God talks to God about us...”* prayer.

We are just going to cover the first 5 verses of it today.

- There are three natural sections
 - 1-Jesus and the Father
 - 2-Praying for the Disciples
 - 3-Praying for us who will believe

Jesus prays as the ripple of a rock dropped in water goes... out from the source...

God the Son firsts talks about who He is, His authority to pray what He is about to pray.

It is important to note - This recorded prayer is for us, not Him

- When we pray, we are praying to connect
 - *Jesus is already one with the Father*
- When we pray, we are asking
 - *Jesus already possesses*

- When we pray, we are lacking
 - *Jesus is already full*
- When we pray, there is worship and connection, but as one who needs forgiveness and impartation...
 - Jesus has it ALL!
- *THIS is what makes THIS prayer so special.*

THIS prayer...

- More of a roadmap, than it is a request.
- More of the heart of God for His people, than it is hoping that God will intervene... He already has been working on our behalf!

THIS prayer in John 17 is a unique opportunity to see the nature and heart of Jesus... God the Son

Let's READ it together...

John 17:1-5

¹When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

John 17:1-5

“When Jesus had spoken these words,”

What were “these words?”

What did Jesus just say that led to this prayer?

- He will leave “in a little while” and return “in a little while” after that,
- After clarifying, the Disciples seem to get it a bit more... they said Jesus was now, “*speaking plainly.*”
- The Father is with Him - He's not alone
- The world brings tribulation
- He declared He has overcome the world... Totally and completely.

What else was in “these words?” –

Jesus tells them...

John 16:32

“Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me.”

“Yet I am not alone...”

The Father is with Him, and Jesus prays to His Father...

Jesus knows who He is

Jesus is declaring this in front of His Disciples, for it to be more and more clear to them.

We see

- A clear connection to the Father as a Co-Equal
- A clear role for each of them to play

So, after He spoke about all of this – Jesus “**lifted up his eyes to heaven...**” to pray...

There are other places Jesus does similarly, looking up to pray...

THIS prayer, however is the most significant prayer of Jesus we have recorded...

Where God the Son, prays to God the Father about us!

This prayer is important enough to be covering it three messages.

Today... just these five verses...

These words declared by Jesus that give enormous weight to the rest of the prayer,

1- For His Disciples

2- And for us (*“...those who will believe...”*)

This is seen in the repeated use of the word “glory.” This word shows up five times...

“Glory” in the Greek is *doxa*

DOXA is multi-faceted

- To make *renound*
- To *become manifest and acknowledged (lift up)*.
- To *cause the dignity and worth of some person*
- To *exalt to a glorious rank*

Let's look at these instances, and different forms of "Doxa" as it comes...

John 17:1b

"Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son..."

At the beginning of the ministry of Jesus, we see how the Father did glorify His son...

Matthew 3:16-17

And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Though the word, "glory" is not used here, the glory God gave to His son here was very clear.

There are other places as well, where the Son is glorified by the Father.

At the Transfiguration of Jesus - Matthew 17:1-8, Mark 9:2-8, and Luke 9:28-36

Right after the triumphal entry, we read words Jesus spoke...

John 12:27-28

“Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”

This prayer almost seems to be a continuation of that...

In this prayer, in John 17... we see the first reference to DOXA

“Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son...”

- **The hour has come for what?**
- **Glorify (lift up) your Son how?**
- **What is the process God uses to see His son glorified?**

It is by the cross

John 12:31-32

Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”

(See also John 13:31-32)

Isn't it strange... ?

- **The cross was utter humiliation to the world,**

but it was an instrument of glorification in God's eyes.

- This is an aspect the foolishness and weakness of the cross (1 Corinthians 1:18, 1:23-25).

It was through the most painful, disgraceful, humiliating way to die, that God would reach down into the most painful, disgraceful and humiliating sin... and rescue us

To save,
 heal and
 set free...
 ALL who call on Him.

In this way – by the cross... God glorified – “lifted up” the Son...

“...that the Son may glorify you,”

We see an amazing picture Jesus gives of this mutual/reciprocal glorying...

Jesus's asking the Father to glorify Him, was not for selfish ambition...

It was so that Jesus would turn right around and bring glory to His Father

“...that the Son may glorify you,”

John 17:2

since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.

Understand clearly...

- Jesus went through all that He did for us in the cross, knowing that He had the authority to waste everyone.
- Jesus had AND has “Authority over all flesh”
- Jesus knew this work had already been accomplished

SO...

Why do we pray in Jesus’s name?

Jesus has authority over all!

Jesus alone is the one who gives eternal life.

John 17:3

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

“...that they know you...”

To know... there are two words in the Greek for this...

- **Knowing about (*oida*)**
- **Knowing through relationship and experience (*ginosko*)**

Salvation is not just what we *know about* God

- It is **not just a decision** in our mind
- It is **not just being convinced** God is real

- It is not putting your trust in a God that you know about

“Eternal life” – is found in *knowing God*.

Knowing by personally receiving and experiencing –

- His grace
- His forgiveness
- His holiness
- His justice
- His how and why He made us to glorify Him

Not just knowing about (oida)

BUT in knowing through relationship and experience (ginosko)

“And this is eternal life, that they know you...”

John 17:4

I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.

Jesus speaks from the position that this work is accomplished – though it had not been officially accomplished yet.

- *“I glorified”*
- *“Having accomplished”*

Jesus had no doubt about how all this would end... The betrayal, the cross, the resurrection...

THIS brought the Lord Glory

- Jesus knew it would be
- There was nothing that could get in the way
- “This is the way” – It started with Jesus...

John 17:5

And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.”

Soon – the mission of Jesus as God in the flesh will be fully accomplished

- His example
- teaching
- His miracles
- His sacrifice
- His resurrection

Jesus will then return TO the Father, where He had always been... remember how John began this Gospel?...

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

It all comes back to Jesus.

From the first declaration of Glory to God for His plan through Jesus, seen in Luke 2...

Juke 2:13-14

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

***¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is
pleased!”***

An unexpected *beginning* Glory...

An unexpected *completion* of God’s glorious plan...

Today’s Advent candle...? The Candle of Joy

The Glory of Jesus – brings the greatest JOY ever known...