

Pastor Clifford
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Buy From Me Gold (Part 12): **High Priestly Prayer**

John 17:1-5 "When 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, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed."

This segment of scripture has often been referred to as the high priestly prayer. John 17 contains the longest recorded prayer of Jesus in any of the Gospels. Jesus prays this after He finishes His final instructions to the disciples and before He is betrayed, arrested, and crucified. First, Jesus prays for Himself, then He prays for His disciples, and He closes the prayer by praying for all believers. This intercessory prayer is commonly called Jesus' High Priestly Prayer.

The office of high priest was instituted at Mount Sinai when God gave the Law to the Israelites through Moses. Aaron and, subsequently, his descendants were chosen to be priests who were responsible for interceding for Israel before God Exodus 28 - 29. One priest was selected as the high priest who would enter the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement to offer the sacrifice that would temporarily cover the sins of the people Hebrews 9:7. When Jesus came, He offered His life as the ultimate sacrifice that would not only cover the sins of the people but completely cleanse His people and save them. Jesus is the

ultimate High Priest, and His intercession for us in John 17 is a wonderful, multilayered example of His love.

Jesus has become the ultimate High Priest therefore He intercedes before the Father for His church.

Hebrews 7:25 "Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them."

Romans 8:34 "Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us."

Romans 5:10 "For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life."

In John 17 we are going to see Jesus intercede for:

1. Himself
2. For the church
3. For the entire world

Let's look at Jesus' prayer a little more closely.

Himself

John 17:1 "When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son..."

- **What exactly is glory?**

Glory: Something You Do

When used as a verb, "glory" means to put confidence in and boast about or praise something. This may be used in the sense of glorying in God or Christ, which the Bible portrays as a good thing, or to glory in yourself or your nature, which the Bible portrays as sinful.

Glory as an attribute: in this sense, is often associated with a person experiencing God's presence in a tangible way. When used this way, the word glory conveys a sense of heavy dignity. One example of this is recorded in 2 Chronicles 5. According to the biblical account, God's glory filled the newly constructed temple. This was experienced tangibly by those around, who saw a cloud fill the temple. This cloud, which signified God's glory and presence, temporarily prevented the priests from conducting their duties.

Isaiah 48:8 "I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols."

John 17:1 "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,"

How does this glory fit the narrative if what happens next is suffering, mocking, pain, humiliation, rejection, and ultimately death.

GLORY, REALLY?

It's often been said that we live in an upside down kingdom, according to the world. In all actuality the world is upside down.

To Become a Leader, Be a Servant

Matthew 20:24-28 "And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

To truly find life, die to self

Matthew 16:24,25 "Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

To get back at your enemy, love him

Matthew 5:43-45 "You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you."

To Become Rich, Give Money Away

Luke 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

Back to GLORY!

What was about to transpire was the death of the Messiah and Yeshua is asking His Father to glorify Him with this act.

This glory then is fully manifest in ETERNAL LIFE!