
Jesus' Prayer The Glory of God

John 17:1-5 (page 87 in the black Bibles)

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Introduction:

We know from the Gospel Accounts that Jesus prayed during His earthly life & ministry (Mark 1:35; 6:46; Luke 3:21; 9:18, 28-31).

Jesus demonstrated His dependence on the Father during His time on earth through prayer (like when He chose the Twelve Luke 6:12-16).

We even have some of the prayers of Jesus recorded. For example, we know at least a little of what Jesus prayed at Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-44; 27:46; Mark 14:32-39; Luke 22:41-45); We know what He prayed before raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11:41-42) and when Jesus knew that “the hour had come for Him to be glorified 12:28); and we know what He cried out to His Father from the Cross (Mark 15:34; Luke 23:46)

Jesus taught His disciples how to pray in what is most often referred to as “The Lord’s Prayer” (Matthew 6:9-11; Luke 11:1-4).

But Jesus’ prayer in John 17 is unique both in its length and content. It is by far the longest recorded prayer of Jesus in the Gospels (26 verses). Its content reveals Jesus praying for Himself (vv. 1-5); praying for the twelve (vv. 6-19) and praying for all who would come to believe in Him (vv. 20-26).

What would you be praying for if you knew that you were going to die in a few hours? Who would you be praying for?

As we come to Jesus’ prayer in John 17 we are privileged to “listen in on” His intimate prayer to His heavenly Father. Here we have “God the Son talking to God the Father.

The Main Point: Jesus prays for His glorification.

In the verses before us today Jesus’ main focus is that He would be glorified by the Father so that He would in turn glorify the Father. So to put it simply, the focus of Jesus prayer is about the Glory of God.

How this glory will be manifested and magnified is through the humiliation of the Son of God in His death and resurrection. Jesus redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree” (Galatians 3:13; Deut. 21:23).

The Hour Come (v. 1a)

¹Jesus spoke these things;

“These things” John 13-16

and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, the hour has come;

“Father” (6x in chapter 17) “Holy Father” (v. 11); Righteous Father (v. 25)

“The hour” is the appointed time of Jesus’ arrest, suffering, crucifixion, and resurrection and exaltation recorded in John 18-21.

At first John records that “the hour” had not yet come (2:4; 7:6, 8, 30; 8:20). In 12:20-23 we are told that “the hour” has come (12:27-33; 13:1, 31)

The Request (v. 1b)

glorify Your Son,

(see also John 12:27-28; 13:31-32)

“glorify” to praise, to honor, to magnify; “to cause the dignity and worth of some person to become manifest and acknowledged”; it can also mean, (“to clothe with splendor” see v. 5)

that the Son may glorify You,

the purpose for the glorification of the Son is that by the Son being glorified, the Son may glorify the Father.

God’s glory is magnified in the Son’s obedience unto death on a cross.

Philippians 2:5-11

“In the death of Christ, the powers of darkness did their best to destroy the glory of the Son of God. This is the apex of evil. But instead they found themselves quoting the script of ancient prophecy and acting the part assigned by God. Precisely in putting Christ to death, they put His glory on display—the very glory that they aimed to destroy. The apex of evil achieved the apex of the glory of Christ. The glory of grace.” (Piper, Spectacular Sins, Crossway, 2008, p.12)

The Basis for Jesus' Request: The Plan of Redemption (v. 2)

²even as/just as

You gave Him authority over all flesh [that is, all humanity],

Matthew 28:18; John 1:12; 5:25-29; 10:17-18

that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life.

John 6:37-40; 10:26-30; 17:6-9; 24

Matthew 11:25-27; 13:10-11

Eternal Life: Knowing Only True God through Jesus Christ

³This is eternal life,

Eternal Life – not just life unending but quality of life derived from knowing God, (not just knowing about God).

that they may know You,
the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

“the only true God”

We can't know the Father apart from Jesus Christ. We can only know the Father through the Son (John 14:6-9; 1 John 2:23-24)

Repeat of the Request

⁴I glorified You on the earth,
having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.

“the work” John 4:34; 5:36; 19:30; Hebrews 12:1-3

⁵“Now, Father, glorify Me
together with Yourself, (“in Your own presence” – ESV; “at Your side” - NET)

with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

John 1:1-4

Application:

Worship God through Jesus Christ for His glory.

John 4:24; 14:6

Live for the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31