

Lighthouse Bible Church

August 17th, 2014

John 17: 1 – 5 *Scripture Reading: Philippians 2: 5 - 11*

‘Jesus prays to the Father’

Stand – Read – Pray

Jesus has just spent from Chapter 13 through Chapter 16 talking with His disciples in the upper room. He has washed the disciples feet and taught them a valuable lesson on humility. He has told them that one of their own would betray Him but that the Scriptures foretold that he would.

Jesus tells them that He must leave and go back to the Father so that both can be glorified and that He would be the way, the truth and the life and the only way to the Father. He told Peter that He would deny Him 3 times. He told them that He and the Father are One.

Jesus told them that when He leaves to go back to the Father that He would send another Helper, another Comforter, the Holy Spirit of truth that would convict the world of sin, and righteousness and judgment. He told them that the world would hate them because they are not of this world but have been chosen by Him out of the world.

He told them that the Father loves them because they love Him and believe that Jesus came from the Father to redeem sinful mankind and then return to the Father. Jesus ended by saying that your faith in Me will be tested and you will all scatter because of Me and you will leave Me alone, but the Father is always with Me. Then He concluded by saying ‘in the world you will have tribulation but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world’.

Jesus has told them all they can comprehend and understand at that time.

And now, before His betrayal and arrest happen, He is going to spend some time in prayer with the Father. This is an incredibly insightful prayer between the Father and the Son that the disciples heard and that we get to hear and read today.

Jesus life was one marked by prayer and He was such an example of prayer. In **Mark 1: 35** it says **that He rose well before sunrise to pray.** **Luke 6: 12** says **He went up on a mountain and prayed all night.** Every important event in His life and ministry was taken to the Father in prayer but we have little information about what He prayed. But in this prayer, we get to hear the fullness of what He says to the Father and so this prayer becomes monumental for us even today.

When we look at this prayer, it can be divided into three parts. Part one is Jesus praying to the Father for Himself, part two is Jesus praying to the Father for His Apostles and disciples and part three Jesus praying to the Father for all who would ever believe what the Apostles and disciples said and wrote. We are going to look at part one this morning in Verses 1 – 5.

Verse One: 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.

John starts out saying **Jesus spoke these words.** All of the words that He had spoken to His disciples in the upper room from Chapter 13 on. Now He has nothing more to say to them and will not talk to them again until after His betrayal. Now He wants to talk with the Father; about all the promises, all the truths that He shared with them and knows they will only come to pass in the Father’s perfect timing and according to His perfect will.

Interestingly enough, all of what Jesus shared with His disciples will come to pass and He already knows that and yet He goes to the Father in prayer. Which means that we can do no less when it comes to our ministries, our plans, our desires, our future, our hopes and our people.

So it says **Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven.** A common posture of prayer whether standing or kneeling; to look up to heaven. And said **Father**, which He used and uses quite often when He prayed. As a matter of fact, there is only one time when He does not use the term Father and that is when He is praying on the cross in **Matthew 27: 46** where He says **My GOD My GOD why have you forsaken Me.**

Jesus starts out His prayer by saying **the hour has come.** This is a significant statement since prior to this time He said many times ‘My hour has not yet come’. In **John 7: 30** it says **they sought to take Him but no one laid a hand on Him because His hour had not yet come.** **John 8: 20** Jesus was in the temple treasury and **no one laid hands on Him for His hour had not yet come.**

But then in **John 13: 1**, like here, it says **Now before the Feast of Passover when Jesus KNEW that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father having loved His own.** Jesus knows that His hour has come to depart from this world in a most cruel torturous way to redeem mankind, so He wants to go to the Father in prayer.

Jesus knows that His hour is about to come and that He will end the sacrificial system forever by being the ultimate and final sacrifice. Jesus knows that He will be fulfilling every type, every symbol, every picture and every prophesy in scripture. It is the hour on which the salvation of every person who will ever enter heaven depends. It is the hour of triumph over sin and death and His enemy the devil.

Then Jesus says **glorify Your Son that Your Son may also glorify You.** The Son is best glorified in finishing the eternal plan of redemption sovereignly ordained by God from eternity past. This is not a selfish prayer by Jesus to be glorified. He knows that if He is glorified then the Father is too.

For the Son and the Father to be glorified means all of the sum of their character and attributes put on display. And they are all put on display at the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ aren't they. We see their **love** displayed, their **mercy** displayed, their **power** displayed, their **righteousness** displayed, their **holiness**, their **wrath**, their **judgment**, their **grace** displayed, their **wisdom** displayed and on and on. Then Jesus says in Verse 2.

Verse 2: as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.

Jesus and the Father will be glorified in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ because through that, He will offer eternal life. The most incredible gift, the greatest gift of all, life eternal, God gives to undeserving sinful people. And because of the cross, Jesus has the authority to give eternal life to as many as God has given Him.

This again is the doctrine of election, the doctrine of God choosing those to receive eternal life. We have seen this before in the book of John. Look back for a minute in **John 6: 37, 39, 44, 65.**

Acts 13: 48 says **and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.** You can see it in *Romans 8: 28 – 29, Ephesians 1: 4 – 5, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world... 2nd Thessalonians 2: 13.*

Jesus, being the author and giver of eternal life, is the theme of this book of John as we have seen. **John 3: 15 – 16, John 3: 36** says **he who believes in the Son has everlasting life..** *John 5: 24, John 6: 27, 40, 47 all say the same thing.*

Jesus said **as You have given Him authority over all flesh.** God gave Jesus the authority over all people.

Matthew 7: 29 says **He taught them as one having authority.** He healed with divine authority, He raised the dead, cast out demons, gave sight to the blind **Luke 9: 1** says. His divine authority allowed Him to violate the man made traditions and customs of the religious leaders **Matthew 15: 1 – 9** said. He violated their Sabbath Laws by healing, waling, carrying, eating and working on the Sabbath. He violated their religious ceremonies. He cleansed the temple with authority **Matthew 21: 12 – 13** said. He had divine authority to forgive sin **Mathew 9: 6** said and to judge the world **John 5: 22 – 23** said.

And it was because of that divine authority over all flesh that went against the religious leaders that eventually led to His crucifixion and death. But that too was by divine authority, wasn't it? **John 10: 17 – 18** says **..I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me but I lay it down of Myself, My own authority, I have the power to lay it down and I have the power to take it again. This authority I have received from My Father.**

His death on the cross made the way of eternal life possible **John 3: 16** says and He becomes the only way, because of His authority, to heaven as **John 14: 6** says. He who rejects Christ's authority **John 3: 35 – 36** says **the Father loves the Son and has given all things, all authority, into His hand. He who believes in the Son has everlasting life and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life but the wrath of God abides on Him.** Then Jesus says in Verse 3.

Verse 3: and this is eternal life, that they may know You the only true God and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

Jesus says eternal life comes only through **knowing God and knowing Him, Jesus, as being sent from God.** It is not just a head knowledge, it is a genuine deep intimate understanding, which that word *ginosko*, to know, means. Remember what Jesus said back in **John 10: 14** **I am the good Shepherd and I KNOW My sheep and am KNOWN by My own.** The same word is used here.

And the only way to **know the only true God** is through Jesus Christ. **1st John 5: 20** says **and we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we may KNOW Him who is true and we are in Him who is true in His Son Jesus Christ, this is the true God and eternal life.**

There are a lot of people who believe in A God but not in the **true** God of the Bible, the God of the O.T., the God and Christ of the N.T., the trinity of God in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And to believe or know any other God is not a God at all, but a God of their imagination, a god of their choosing, like many other cults and religions believe, even today. Then Jesus says in Verse 4

Verse 4: I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.

Jesus tells the Father that He has glorified Him while He was on the earth; and the reason being is because He obeyed the Father perfectly and did everything the Father sent Him to do. He **finished the work** and that is why He could say on the cross in **John 19: 30 it is finished.**

Jesus had **finished** all the **work which the Father gave Him to do.** He said earlier in **John 4: 34 My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work.** And he finished it all; down to the last minute detail of saying on the cross 'I thirst'. His life of perfect **obedience, righteousness, submission** and **sacrifice** was now finished because He was in the perfect sovereign care of the Father and completed His will perfectly.

Just like God sovereignly controlled all the events in the life of Jesus, up to an including His death, burial and resurrection, He too controls all the events in our lives by His sovereign hand and all for His glory.

By the way, implied in His saying that He finished the Father's work is the fact that He did it without sin, He was sinless. He had to be, in order to accomplish all that God planned for the redemption of mankind. That is why Jesus could say what He did in **John 8: 46** **which one of you convicts Me of sin?** And the answer is no one, because He was sinless. That is why **2nd Corinthians 5: 21** says **He who knew no sin became sin for us..** That is why **Hebrews 4: 15** says that **He was without sin.**

And the amazing thing is for us; although Jesus was sinless and the only possible sacrifice acceptable to God, God treated Jesus as if He committed every sin of everyone who would ever believe and then God treated every believer who received the righteousness of Christ as if they had lived the perfect life Jesus lived. All that was possible because Jesus finished God's work of redemption.

Verse 5: **And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself with the glory which I had with You before the world was.**

Having finished the work given to Him by the Father, He was ready to be exalted to the place He had before He came to this earth. And in order for that to happen, He has to go to the cross; the cross is the way home for Jesus to the Father's right hand.

Mark 16: 19 says **after the Lord had spoken to them He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.** As a matter of fact, **Ephesians 1: 20** says **God raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.** Listen to what **Ephesians 2: 4 – 6** says **but God who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses made us alive together with Christ, by grace you have been saved, and raised us up together and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...**

That is why **Philippians 2: 9 – 11** says that after the cross, after His submission and humiliation and suffering, **God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name 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 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of the Father.** Jesus looked forward to the glory He had with the Father.

That is why **Hebrews 12: 2** says **that for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross despising the shame and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.** The joy of returning to the glory of the Father made the cross endurable. He had defeated Satan, He had conquered sin and He made the way to the Father possible and now He was ready to go back to Him.

Christ deserves all the glory and honor for His redemptive work in our lives and we must never lose sight of that. That is why we sing the songs we do about the life, ministry, teaching, death on the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ as a means of glorify Him. And we will be doing that for all eternity as Revelation Chapter 5 makes very clear.

Jesus is no longer on the cross, He is at the right hand of the Father in full glory and someday He will come back to this earth in full glory. Because of His death, burial and resurrection, Jesus made the way of eternal life possible. It is up to you to choose whether to believe it or reject it. If you reject it, then you will die in your sin and will end up in hell forever. If you do believe it and repent of your sin and put your faith and trust in Christ alone for your salvation, then you will have the same hope many of us do here about being in heaven with Jesus and enjoying all the glories of heaven He has prepared for us and is enjoying now.

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John 13: 1

Verse Two:

John 6: 37, 39, 44, 65, Acts 13: 48
Romans 8: 28 – 29, Ephesians 1: 4 – 5
2nd Thessalonians 2: 13, John 3: 15 – 16, 3: 36
John 5: 24, 6: 27, 40, 47. Matthew 7: 29, Luke 9: 1
Matthew 15: 1 – 9, 21: 12 – 13, 9: 6, John 5: 22 – 23
John 10: 17 – 18, John 3: 35 – 36

Verse Three:

John 10: 14, 1st John 5: 20

Verse Four:

John 19: 30, John 4: 34, John 8: 46, Hebrews 4: 15
2nd Corinthians 5: 21

Verse Five:

Mark 16: 19, Ephesians 1: 20, Ephesians 2: 4 – 6
Philippians 2: 9 – 11, Hebrews 12: 2

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