

Jesus' High Priestly Prayer - John 17:1-5

1) What is Jesus Christ most concerned for before he goes to the cross?

Jesus prays that His own glory would be revealed (vs.1,5) 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 that the Son may glorify you..." vs. 5 [5] And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.*

Jesus affirms his preexistence with the Father. He is God. (Some claim his followers made this up) and he is asking that His visible and active presence be among His people like in the Tabernacle and Temple.

John 1:[14] *And the Word became flesh and dwelt (TABERNACLED) among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.* Jesus, the Word made flesh, is the fullest revelation of the God's glory. He's asking to have the veil pulled back.

How is Jesus' glory to be revealed?

The scandal here is that we think of glory being revealed through huge phenomena (think OT). You can see irony in Jn 12:32 *And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.* "Lifted up" means glory and "lifted up" on the cross means shame. God's glory is being revealed in the weakness of human flesh AND and in particular when that flesh would be crucified on a cross, the moment of greatest shame. In those days, even Romans were instructed to keep their kids away from crucifixion, so heinous. Every abominable act of murder, envy, brutality would not just be placed on Him, Paul said *he would be made sin, so that we made be made the righteousness of God in Him*". Jesus will be glorified through this suffering...

Why is Jesus asking for this? (could seem self-centered)

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

This was the ultimate end of it all. *glorify me, so that I may glorify you.* The central theme of His entire life, not just His death.

1. Who do we see Jesus most concerned about as he faced the cross? Not us. this petition makes it imminently clear that the cross...the means for which Jesus would be glorified and in turn glorify the Father...was and is completely God-Centric. What Jesus wanted the most through His death was that His father be glorified...be seen for who he truly is all of His splendor. We are beneficiaries, but Jesus was most concerned about God's plan and God being made much of.

2. How does Jesus bring glory to the Father? *4] I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.* What work? Jesus has glorified the Father through His obedience his whole life. Obedience brings glory to God. No wonder, he would say *"if you love me, you'll obey my commands"?*

How do you react to the irony of God being most glorified through the terror of the cross?

Were you / are you scandalized? Offended? Confused?
When you / if you communicate this to your closest not-yet-believing friends... how did they / how might they initially respond?

2) What do we learn about redemption from Jesus's prayer?

...glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, [2] since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.

It was according to the plan designed and executed by all three persons of the Godhead.

In this great work see how the Father relates to the Son, planning for him a perfect work, which will bring great glory to him, and promising him, in exchange for that perfect work, a magnificent reward namely, that he would give to him a special people, and also bring all created things under his feet, as their Master and Lord. We see how the Son relates to the Father, always in perfect accord with his will, and always obeying him exactly. We see how the Spirit relates to the Father and the Son, proceeding from them in order to bring to life those whom he has chosen, not speaking of himself, but of the Persons in the Trinity who sent him (John 15:26).

In eternity past, the Godhead (father, son, spirit) made a covenant to save a people for God out of the destruction of sin... God has given Jesus authority to give eternal life and b/c of this Jesus prays "let's finish it...let's get you the glory that is rightly yours" "this was our plan to save sinners...let's finish it now" Jesus has authority over all flesh implies that there is no other Savior. There is no other thing that can forgive you, pay your penalty, and save you. Think of the cost...physical and spiritual death...wrath of God exhausted..."why have you forsaken me".

Consider for a few moments what it would mean for you to pay your own penalty for sin. What do we learn about these consequences from what Jesus experienced on the cross? (If the Son of God would suffer this... are we to escape? God is not bending his justice for anyone, even his own son....)

3) What do we learn about God from Jesus' prayer?

For it is at the cross that you see His love as He sends the Son to die in our place. It is there you see His grace. It is there you see His mercy. Is there you see His power over sin and death and hell and Satan. It is there you see His righteousness, because He cannot just pass by sin. There has to be a sacrifice. It is there you see His holiness as He turns his back on the sacrifice, the sin-bearing sacrifice. It is there you see His goodness as out of the mouth of Jesus comes those unforgettable words to that dying thief, "Today, you will be with Me in paradise." And that most magnanimous statement, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." It is there that you see His wisdom made clear because He has concocted such an amazing and astonishing plan to accomplish all of His purpose...

God didn't have to do this. He could have left us in our sin. He could have left us guilty of treason and of breaking His law. When we read God's commands in His word you are pronouncing a verdict of guilty over yourself. Consider the 10 Commandments. No other gods before me (idolatry in our affections) murder (angry intentions), adultery (lustful thoughts) That's the standard and we have all fallen short and deserve to be judged guilty.

Have we "assumed" forgiveness with God? Is it his "job"? What might indicate that we have? Justice / mercy / holiness / kindness... do we let all these mute each other so that God has become inconsequential? What can we do to keep all of these attributes alive in our hearts so we grow in adoration?

4) How should this affect us right now?

John 17: [3] And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. We are brought into the relational dynamic of knowing God the Father and knowing Jesus as they know one another. Jesus prays that God would be glorified through completing His eternal plan of reversing the effects of the Fall by calling a people who know Him through His Son. Therefore knowing God is not the way to eternal life...it is eternal life! And this should rightly cultivate a life of worship in you.

The cross persuades us that God loves us. (*Ferguson*)

When we think of Christ's dying on the cross we are shown the lengths to which God's love goes in order to win us back to Himself. We would almost think that God loved us more than He loves His son. (though we know that not to be the case) We cannot measure His love by any other standard. He is saying to us, "I love you this much." The cross is the heart of the gospel; it makes the gospel good news. Christ died for us; He has stood in our place before God's judgment seat; He has borne our sins. God has done something on the cross which we could never do for ourselves. But God does something to us as well as for us through the cross. He persuades us that He loves us.

5) How can we glorify God?

- What is the chief end of man? Westminster Catechism: To glorify God and enjoy Him forever.
- What is the chief end of man? John Piper's version: To glorify God BY enjoying him forever. Therefore, *"God is most glorified in you when you are most satisfied in Him."*

Your life, your eternal joy, your everything consists in Knowing God...and God's glory consists in being known for who he is...God has given you the joy of knowing Him in His glory. God is now glorified by you when you show your joy and satisfaction in Him! The more satisfied in God you grow the more delighted you will be to obey His word and in your obedience He is glorified! Therefore, the question "How's your obedience going?" is really the question: "How is your delight in God going?"

**Do we really get this? Give everyone a chance to explain this in their own words:
Sin > Redemption > Joy > Satisfaction > Obedience > God's glory**