

Connecting Minds

"These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31)

The Gospel of John

Chapter 17:1

"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.'"

We're continuing to look at this first verse of John 17. Jesus asks the Father "Glorify Your Son..." There are several ways to look at this.

First, Jesus could be asking the Father to stand by Him through all the tribulations ahead. The world look upon Christ when He is on the cross and see disgrace, shame, failure, perhaps pity. The world will see nothing even close to glory. Jesus is saying to His Father, "You glorify Me. The world will ridicule, mock, beat, abandon, spit at and humiliate Me, but You Father, glorify Me." It picks up on what Jesus had said in chapter 16:32 - "Yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me."

Second, He could be asking that there be some measure of glory shown to Him in the events ahead. In this the Father answered the prayer in many ways. "Now when He said to them [the detachment of troops] "I am He", they drew back and fell to the ground..." (John 18:6). The glory of His spoken divine name caused a troop of men to fall to the ground. Pilate said to Him "I find no fault in Him at all..." (John 18:38). Jesus received the glory of being vindicated as being righteous. In these and other ways Jesus was glorified during His trial.

Third, Jesus is asking that He be glorified in His work. The request to be glorified comes directly after Jesus acknowledges that the hour for atonement has come. So Jesus says "Glorify Your Son..." But how is Jesus glorified in His work? First, by being able to complete it. This is the mystery of Jesus' nature. Yes, Jesus was God but He was also fully Man. Second, by being resurrected - Jesus could be looking forward to the resurrection which would be to His glory and the Father's.

Martyn Lloyd-Jones writes "He was to bear the staggering load of the guilt of the whole of mankind... Would his human nature, as it were, crack and break under it? Could He stand this load?... Father, He says, strengthen Me, hold Me, prove to the world that I am Your Son, glorify Your Son in this world."¹

Lastly, Jesus is asking to be glorified that He may glorify the Father. He pleads the mutuality of their end desire. The Father is glorified as the Son is glorified and vice versa. They are one in essence and in glory.

This has application for our own prayer. How do you pray? Do you feel there is a division in your prayers? Perhaps you pray first for God's glory and the exaltation of Jesus, then second, you pray for yourself and your needs and desires? Do these seem like separate things? Not at all. Pray that God would receive all the glory from the blessings we ask for. Pray "God give my daily bread, that I may glorify You." Pray "Father, bring health to my body, give me a good job, protect my family, provide good weather for crops, provide for this unexpected expense, send me a godly wife or husband... but do it all that I may glorify You."

TableTalk

Read Luke 22:43. What do we see the Father doing in that agonizing time? How does the Father glorify the Son?

Read John 19:19-22 and Luke 23:44,45. In what ways is Jesus glorified even during the time of crucifixion and afterward?

¹The Assurance of our Salvation, Martyn Lloyd-Jones, pg. 78