

## **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 17:5

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

"And now, O Father, glorify Me..." Jesus has already asked that the Father would glorify Him back in verse 1. It was His first petition – "Father, the hour has come. Glorify You Son..." In that first petition we noted three things. First, Jesus was asking that the Father would glorify Him while the world ridiculed. Second, that the Father would strengthen Him through the time of trial. And third, that the Father would glorify Him in His work as Mediator. Now the glory that Jesus asks for is first, to be glorified with the Father and second, to regain His pre-incarnate glory.

First, "Glorify Me together with Yourself..." Jesus does not grasp at a glory for Himself alone, but only for a glory that He has together with the Father. There is no pride or envy amongst the members of the Holy Trinity. Jesus is a perfect picture to us of the biblical teaching of humility going before exaltation. Paul writes in Philippians of how Jesus "made Himself of no reputation... He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore, God also has highly exalted Him..." (2:7-9).

This is what we also saw Jesus doing in His first petition - "Glorify Your Son, [so] that Your Son also may glorify You." There is complete unity between the Father and the Son. Our praise is to be directed to both Father and Son equally, for they are glorified together.

Second, "With the glory which I had with You before the world was..." Jesus desires to receive back the fullness of His pre-incarnate glory. We learn four amazing truths from this phrase upon which we should deeply meditate. They expand our understanding of the Man Jesus. Yes, we see Him walking around Palestine in the gospel of John. He speaks with a woman at the well in Samaria because He was physically weary from the journey. He was tired

in the back of a boat during a storm, exhausted from labour. He felt pain, sorrow, tears and anger. But here we see a glimpse into understanding our God Jesus. The two natures exist as One in One Person.

One, He existed with the Father before the world was. In His humanity Jesus began to exist when He was conceived in the womb of the virgin Mary. As God Jesus is eternal.

Two, He had a glory equal to the Father before the world was. We speak of Jesus being the Second Person of the Trinity but that does not mean that He is second in glory, power, wisdom, might, holiness or any other the attributes of God. All the members of the Trinity are equally and fully God.

Three, He set aside this glory in His incarnation. What a mystery the incarnation is. What love it speaks of. Nothing compares to the glory of Christ that He had before the incarnation. To set it aside is humility. To set it aside to face the abuse and ridicule He faced during His time on earth, all in order to be our Saviour, is the greatest of love.

Four, He is presently reinvested with this glory as the ascended Lord. John writes in Revelation 5:13 "Blessing and honour and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb, forever and ever..." Note the unity of the Trinity again – "To Him who sits on the throne *and* to the Lamb..." But oh, note the glory of the risen Christ. He is acclaimed by all in heaven, earth, under the earth and in the sea. His glory is sung by all and is sung forever and ever.

In this there is instruction even for us. Jesus had been offered the glory of earth's kingdoms and refused them (Read Matthew 4:8-10). Here in this prayer Jesus teaches us the true glory that is worth praying for, the glory of heaven, in the presence of our Triune God.

## TableTalk

Read Revelation 5:8-14. Perhaps the best response to this passage is to simply sing our praise to God. Some hymns to consider – *Holy, Holy, Holy* or *Crown Him with Many Crowns*.