

Jesus Prays for Himself

John 17:1-5

Jesus Prays Series

- #1 In length;
- #2 In scope (covers then till now)!

Today we are beginning a new 3 week study in one of the most revered portions of scripture in the New Testament – maybe the whole Bible.

A) John 17 has been called the Holy of Holies of the NT

B) It has been referred to as the High Priestly prayer of Jesus

1) AND as the REAL LORD'S PRAYER.

C) In Matthew Chapter 6 – The Disciples of Jesus ask Him – Lord teach us to pray –

1) He does that- Our Father who is in heaven – Hallowed

D) That prayer is commonly referred to as the Lord's prayer – but it really can't be – One line – **Forgive us our sins.... Against us.**

E) Jesus was sinless – He could not pray that prayer

1) Better name for that one – Disciples Prayer

John 17 is referred to as THE REAL LORD'S PRAYER.

A) Because it is the one place in the NT where we actually get to hear Jesus pray a prayer in its entirety.

B) Jesus was a man of prayer:

- He prayed all night before Choosing the Disciples – **You Sure?**
- Sent in boat – **Mount to pray – walked on water**
- Mark 1 After a Long day of ministry got up early to pray
- Garden of Gethsemane – we hear Him pray.

C) But in this case- We get to hear Jesus pray a full prayer. - An Amazing prayer.

The Prayer itself

- V. 1-5 He prays for Himself.
- V. 6-19 He prays for His Disciples.
- V. 20-26 He prays for the Church.

A) Longest prayer by Jesus: **2 ways:**

B) He mentions the term World in this prayer 19 times

1) He is concerned about the Lost in the world – those who don't know the Father - those He came to save.

C) He is concerned about His church being in the world -but not of the world – set apart and protected.

D) He is concerned about the impact His Church is to have on the World for the sake of the gospel.

1) It is a great passage for us to be considering in these weeks **leading into Easter.**

Setting: Last night – upper room – Last supper – last WORDS –

A) Judas has gone to set in motion the betrayal.

B) He is done speaking to man – and now He is going to stop and speak to His Father.

C) Most commentators believe that Jesus has left the upper room – walking to the Garden of Gethsemane.

1) He stops to pray – He looks up – Prays where we can hear Him and I am glad He did.

Looking up to heaven -- Prays with His eyes open – **OK TO DO THAT.**

A) I Like to pray walking – pray with my eyes open – I pray with my eyes open when I am driving!

B) Talking to God – like talk to a friend -

THE TIMING -The Hour has come! V.1

A) Many times prior to this moment Jesus has declared that His hour had not yet come. – **UNTIL NOW – THE TIME WAS NOW**

B) This is the hour that all time and eternity has been moving towards.

C) He is referring to the Cross!

1) 1 Peter 1:20 – **was chosen before the world was formed to be our ransom.**

D) Revelation 13:8 – **He was the lamb slain from before the foundation of the world.**

This is ONE of the most mind boggling things about the Gospel.

A) Before the world was created – before Man was created – Before the Fall –

Aa) God the Father / Son and Holy Spirit – had a Conversation.

1) Create a world – Create a man in our image and likeness – relationship

B) Man is going to Fall – separated – cause us much sorrow

C) We are going to have to redeem man - Jesus volunteers for the mission

1) Honestly I don't understand that – but I radically appreciate it

Everything in the history of man has been moving toward this hour –

A) And Ever since His birth the clock has been ticking – focus is on THIS HOUR

B) He was heading to the Cross -

The FOCUS: The Glory of God - Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You

A) Jesus understood what His life was about –

B) Like us – He existed for the Glory of God! - **Glorify Me, for this purpose – that I may glorify You.**

Bb) **Is that how we pray:** Lord give me the promotion – because I need to make more money.

C) Lord – let her like me – She is going to make me happy.

So often our prayers are so focused on ourselves.

A) Lord I need this – I need that – Help me, heal me, bless me.

B) Jesus prayer centered around the Glory of God!

1) He existed for this primary purpose – that the World would be able to get a glimpse of the glory of God through HIS LIFE.

C) Life is a platform – Stage: God's glory can be revealed.

From almost Day one – many people had been trying to get Jesus to Glorify Himself - - take charge - assert

A) My hour had not yet come - It is not time!

B) That all changes in John 12- We looked at this a few weeks ago – but turn back – again.

1) Greeks guys are in Jerusalem – they came to worship - Heard Jesus was there – wanted to see him

C) Andrew and Philip tell Jesus

Jesus' weird response: ²³ **But Jesus answered them, saying, “The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. ²⁴ Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.**

A) Personal illustration – He was the grain – unless died and buried – no Fruit

B) V.27 **“Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’?”**

My Soul is troubled – His innermost being

A) He is Wrestling in His Humanity with what is waiting for Him –

B) Jesus wrestling with the Spiritual implication.

1) He who knew no sin – become sin for us. – SEPARATION

C) In the next statement – Jesus gives us the key – the focus – the perspective we need when –

1) When our flesh is wrestling with God's will.

D) Ever do that? – I do – long talks at times – things I don't like – things I wrestle with –

1) **TIMES MY SOUL IS TROUBLED.**

E) Learn from Jesus -V.27 **“Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? **But** for this purpose I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify Your name.”**

HERE IS THE ANSWER: His Focus is God's glory – God's Purpose not HIS OWN comfort!

A) God's glory -- not HIS OWN pleasure. –

B) That is the key: When you and I are wrestling in our flesh -with the hard decisions – God's will.

C) Choose – that which is going to result in God's glory – God's purpose fulfilled

1) Even if it means – Our comfort is sacrificed

D) Example we have in Jesus here

1) Garden: Father save Me – take cupnot My will but Yours be done

E) HIS Focus was on The Glory of God!

This is what we need to remember:

A) God is most glorified – and we are most fulfilled when we are being and doing what He called us to be and do.

B) Maybe you hear that and go – I don't know what I am called to be – not sure what I am called to do –

1) You wrestle with the BIG PICTURE.

C) Answer- Be faithful in the Moment: - Be faithful in the Season –

1) Be faithful with what God has called you to RIGHT NOW!

RECALL David: You know what David was doing right before – he killed Goliath?

A) He was running an errand for his Dad – take some food to your brothers

B) What if David – blew that off – what if David said: I am more important than this –

1) I should be doing more – than delivering food. Samuel anointed me for crying out loud.

C) What if he blew that off.

D) He would have missed out – being God's instrument to take down Goliath

1) David was faithful in the moment – God was glorified – because he was obeying his dad

E) And God opened a bigger door – Greater glorified!

1) Be faithful in the moment.

Think of it in terms of an Orchestra – God is the conductor- and each one of us are playing an instrument.

A) The conductor is glorified when each musician is playing his part – right?

B) Orchestras need conductors – know what to

play – what to practice – when to come in.

C) Depending on the particular piece – your role and part is going to vary.

Cc) One piece – you have a bigger role – MAYBE A BIG SOLO –

1) Other times your role is smaller – more background

D) By submitting to the authority of a conductor, individual musicians attain musical expression

1) They could never realize individually or even as a collection of free-wheeling players.

The result is a thing of Beauty. – Glory!

A) God is glorified – when you play your instrument – your life – the piece He has given to you –

B) This moment – this season.

C) Back to John 17 – Skip down to V4

Jesus says something really interesting about His mission. – V.4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵ And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

A) Glory is seen in Fulfilling the Mission- V. 4 – **I have finished the work.**

B) Not done yet – Still the Garden - but in His heart it was FINISHED– Face like Stone – Jerusalem

C) When our focus is on God's glory and not our comfort – Easier to set our face toward the goal **The Glory I had with you before the World was.**

A) Jesus became a man – didn't lay aside His Deity – Fully man – fully God

B) What He did lay aside or allow to be concealed was His glory

1) The Glory of Jesus – Concealed in His Humanity

Disciples got glimpses - MT of Transfiguration – Glimpse of it - Shone brighter than the sun.

A) APOSTLE John reflecting on the life of Jesus after everything was said and done

B) John 1:14 – We beheld His glory the glory of the only begotten of the Father full of grace and truth!

C) John is saying – We beheld His glory – Seen in this perfect blending of these two things – Grace and truth

Where was that seen the clearest?

A) Calvary – THE CROSS – truth – sin judged – grace – Jesus bore our sin and shame

B) Exodus 33-34 Show me your Glory !

1) No one can see my face and live

C) Back side to pass by – Proclaim My name –

1) What God proclaims is a perfect picture of what was depicted at Calvary

Exodus 34:6-7

“The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.”

God was glorified when Jesus fulfilled the mission that He was sent to fulfill

A) God was glorified because Jesus walked in obedience

B) So too in our lives – God is glorified – when we are obedient to the things He has spoken in His word – spoken to our hearts

C) Each season of life – each day – We can bring God glory

D) Focus on the goal – Face like flint – see it as fulfilled already

1) Easier to say YES to God and NO to our flesh

The Reward:

V.2 “As You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

Jesus came to give eternal life to as many as the Father had given Him.

A) Amazing thought – Seven times in this prayer the Church- believers are spoken of as a gift given to the Son – by the Father

B) Seven times it tells us that you and I have been given to the Son – as a gift by the Father.

1) We are the bride.

C) We often think of Jesus as the gift of God to us

1) **For God so loved the world that He gave** – that is true – Jesus is God’s gift to US

D) ALSO TRUE: we are The Father’s gift to Jesus – Job well done

1) Mission accomplished – Resulted in A BRIDE

Ephesians 1 – Paul refers to us – As Jesus’ inheritance.

A) Not saying – look in the mirror – “Jesus You scored with me”- Actually He got a raw deal

B) Even on this night – Jesus has told these guys

1) You are going to all forsake me – Peter you are going to Deny me – THREE TIMES.

C) But you guys are my Prize! – **Almost expect Jesus to say: Father can you take them back.**

BUT Jesus doesn’t feel JIPPED!

A) Jesus looks at us and He doesn’t value so much what we are in our flesh – {Talents abilities – looks etc.

B) He values what we are going to become when He gets a hold of us.

C) TRANSFORMATION PROCESS

1) **He who has begun a good work in you will be faithful to complete it!**

D) He values what He is going to make of us.

1) Met Peter – You are Simon – I am going to call you Peter = Rock

2) Jesus saw what Peter was going to become.

You are a gift to Jesus – He loves you – He is for you! – He is committed to you until the end –

A) You might be thinking – My wife doesn’t even think I am a gift most of the time – But Jesus does?

B)SO Don't let the enemy or anyone else condemn you –

1)He sees your warts and all – He loves you – Gift

C)Come just as you are – He is going to transform you into something AMAZING!

He has come to give eternal life to those who the Father has given Him

A)Defines – This is eternal life - V.3 Know God and Jesus Christ who He has sent

B)Know – By experience – Growing experience – Knowing = Enlargement – Enjoyment and Enrichment

1)Jon Courson – talk, tapes, mentor/Pastor – Friend

Bb)Paul Phil 3 – Laid aside everything – Know Jesus

C)Jesus Came – left heaven – laid aside Glory – For this Purpose

1)God's glory would be clearly seen at Calvary.

D)We could be recipients of Eternal life – Quality Now

1)Longevity later

Lost in Translation:

Machine – takes words or phrases and translates it – Guatemala – Menu

Someone took the song – Take me out to the ball game You know the song:

Take me out to the ballgame. Take me out to the crowd. Buy me some peanuts and Crackerjack. I don't care if I ever get back.

Let me root, root, root for the home team. If they don't win, it's a shame. For it's one, two, three strikes you're out at the old ballgame.

He translated it into German and then back into English.

Well, something got lost in the translation. It sounds a little militant, like Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Execute me to the ball play. Execute me with the masses. Buy me certain groundnuts and crackerstackfusig. I'm not interested if I never receive back.

Let me root, root, root for the main team. If they do not win, it is dishonor. For there are one, two, three impacts on you at the old ball play.

Don't let the Mission of Jesus and His purpose for your life get lost in translation.

A)He came to make us His Prize

B)We can know Him

C)He is glorified – Grow in that relationship

D)When we are fulfilling our purpose – to know Him