

Introduction:

- John 17:1-5 (ESV) *"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, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed"*
 - There is so much in John 17, I think you could preach a year in just this chapter if you went deeply into it.
 - Tonight I want to give us an introduction and overview of what is taking place.
- John spends four chapters (13-16) in a place of intimate conversation with His disciples.
 - It was an incredibly treasured and tender time. He lays out some very 'heavy' and important truths for them to survive and overcome what was about to happen.
 - Now the picture, the narrative changes. Jesus begins to pray this powerful prayer.
 - He is communing with the Father.
 - He is revealing His heart to his disciples and most of all to the Father. It gives us an example of how to related to God the Father.

I. It BeginsA. *"Father the hour has come..."*

1. Hour; aora - Greek: hour speaks of set time or a time that has been set.
 - a) Because it is set time it has a specific purpose.
 - b) The purpose of this 'set time' has arrived for Jesus.
2. Ie. Like a coach to his players, "This is what we have trained for, go play ball." The officer to his men moments before the fight. "It is time. We have our orders. Let's do this."
3. Jesus' time was set before the foundation of the world was put in place. This hour is pivotal in our eternal history.

B. The hour or set time has been mentioned by Jesus many times: John 12:27 also refers to this time.

1. *"Now my soul is deeply troubled. Should I pray, 'Father, save me from this hour'? But this is the very reason I came!"* (John 12:27, NLT) Ie. For a pregnant woman, the hour, is when contractions begin.
2. *"Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end."* (John 13:1, NLT)
3. Jesus clearly knows what this means - His suffering, His victory, and His return in glory to His Father.

- a) May we be people who in our darkest hour lift our eyes up to the Father.
 - b) May we be people who before our greatest victory lift our eyes up to the Father.
- C. Glorify your Son! I find it interesting and powerful that Jesus approaches the Father and the cross from the perspective of glory not defeat. We can learn from that!
1. Glorify - Gr. doxa - tied to the OT word kabob - 'glory', honor, of good reputation. It brings hope!
 - a) *"Praise his glorious name forever! Let the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and amen!"* (Psalm 72:19, NLT)
 - b) *"Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!"* (Psalm 57:5, ESV)
 2. "The primary sense, then, is the divine glory which comes to expression in God's acts in creation and history." Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). In *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Abridged in One Volume* (p. 179). W.B. Eerdmans.
 3. "In the NT again, giving God glory means acknowledging (Acts 12:23) or extolling (Lk. 2:14) what is already a reality." Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). In *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Abridged in One Volume* (p. 180). W.B. Eerdmans.
 - a) Christ is raised by the glory of the Father (Romans 6:4).
 - b) He is taken up into glory (1 Timothy 3:16).
 - c) He is at the right hand of glory (Acts 7:55).
 - d) Glory is ascribed to him as to God (cf. Luke 2:14 and Hebrews 13:21).
 - e) He is the Lord of glory (1 Corinthians 2:8; James 2:1).
 - f) The end time hope (cf. Isaiah 40:5) is the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13).
 4. It is in the light of the passion/the cross that we as believers, by revelation see Christ's glory! Glory fills John 17 and it touches our lives too!

II. The Progression Of Glory Revealed!

- A. Our self-glory pales in comparison to the exceeding great glory of Christ! Our righteousness is as dirty rags compared to the righteousness of Christ.
 1. Jesus is about to explode on to the seen with Father's glory!
 2. As much as He has revealed about himself to his disciple, nothing compares to what He is about to do!
 3. Jesus goes to the cross with the mindset that He has already won.
- B. The focus of Jesus' prayer is oneness.
 1. Oneness speaks of the unity and the very nature that He and the Father share, He and believers share, resulting in the oneness that the Father, Son and church shares!

2. This shared glory will bring stability to the church world wide! Glory is the glue that will hold us all together.
3. *"And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."* (John 17:3, ESV)
 - a) Know - Gk. Gnosis - emphasis on understanding rather than by perception.
 - b) Knowing eternal life is the Christians new reality!
 - c) Paul's prayer in Ephesians: *"that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,"* (Ephesians 1:17, ESV)
4. This 'knowing,' 'this reality' is brought about by the work of the Holy Spirit, though He is not directly mentioned. The joy, presence, and glory is the work of the Holy Spirit. It is seen in Paul's prayer when he says, *"The Spirit of wisdom."*
 - a) We have to have the glory that will sustain our soul.
 - b) The cross makes this possible. Can you see the excitement in the heart of our Saviour for what He is joyfully about to do?

III. Section Break Down

1. John 17:1-5 Jesus' prayer focuses on His and the Father's oneness!
 - a) *"... glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,"* (John 17:1, ESV)
 - b) My words let me now do what you sent me to do. It is all about the cross.
 - c) It is at the cross that both the Father and the Son are glorified! The symbol of death become the symbol of victory.
2. John 17:6-19 Jesus' prayer focuses on His and the believers oneness (our oneness) with Him.
 - a) vs. 10 *"I am glorified in them!"*
 - b) The cross produces the church!
3. John 17:20-26 Jesus' prayer focuses on the Father's, His, and the church's oneness with Him.
 - a) *"The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one,"* (John 17:22, ESV)
 - b) The glory Jesus receives He give to His church. Therefore the cross produces a oneness with both the Father, the Son and the Church!

Conclusion:

- We really need to gaze more at the glory that manifests in the High Priestly Prayer of Jesus!
- *"that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,"* (Ephesians 1:17, ESV)