

## Sermon Outline

### GLORIFY YOUR SON: AN ASCENSION MESSAGE (JOHN 17:1-5)

#### I. The Almighty Savior

#### II. The Fact of the Ascension

- A. The ascension of Christ refers to that specific moment in time when Jesus is taken up bodily into heaven, in order to sit at the right hand of God the Father.
- B. The event of the ascension is recorded in Mark 16, Luke 24, and Acts 1.
- C. Although the Gospel of John does not record the ascension of Jesus, it assumes that this event took place (Jn 14:1-2; 17:1-5).

#### III. The Introduction to the Prayer (John 17:1)

- A. The prayer of Jesus in John 17 comes after the Farewell Discourse (Jn 13-16).
- B. The fact that Jesus looks up to heaven to pray shows us that the right posture to pray is not just looking down and closing your eyes.
- C. By looking up to heaven, Jesus shows his dependence on God the Father.

**\*Questions for reflection:** (1) Must we only pray by looking down and closing our eyes? (2) What is the significance of Jesus looking up to heaven when he prays?

#### IV. Jesus Asks to Be Glorified (John 17:1)

- A. When Jesus talks about “the hour that has come,” he’s referring to the great Moment for which he took on human flesh—his crucifixion.
- B. But the Hour is not only the crucifixion. It also includes the resurrection and the ascension.
- C. Jesus asks the Father to glorify him.
- D. To glorify is to apply glory to another person or thing.
  - 1. “Glory” can be praise and honor.
  - 2. “Glory” can be the *form* of glory; i.e., visible splendor, beauty, and majesty.
- E. Therefore, Jesus is asking for both honor and visible majesty.
- F. Jesus asks for glory so that he can, in turn, glorify the Father.
- G. The going of the Son to his glory is the proof that God has fulfilled all that he has promised for his chosen people.

**\*Questions for reflection:** (1) What does Jesus’ “hour” include? (2) What is Jesus asking for when he prays for glory? (3) Why does Jesus’ glorification glorify the Father?

#### V. Jesus Asks for Glory on the Basis of God’s Promise (John 17:2, 3)

- A. Having made his petition to be glorified, our Lord reveals the basis for why he can make such a bold request in the first place.
- B. On what grounds does the Son of God ask his Father for glorification?
  - On the grounds of the Father’s own promise to him.
- C. Jesus summarizes eternal life for us in verse 3: It is knowing God the Father *and* Jesus Christ.
  - This definition gives us a hint as to why Jesus prays for his glorification: Our eternal life will not be complete without Jesus at God’s side.

**\*Questions for reflection:** (1) According to 17:2, what right does Jesus have to ask God for glory? (2) How does Jesus define eternal life? (3) How does Jesus’ definition of eternal life relate to his prayer for glory?

## VI. Jesus Asks for Glory on the Basis of His Finished Work (John 17:4)

- A. Jesus gives us another reason for why he is able to petition for glorification.  
—He has finished the work that the Father had given him to do.
- B. There is a sense in which Jesus has also *earned* his glory.
- C. Jesus shows us the kind of heroic virtue that God wants us to admire most.
  - 1. Society has many heroes for us to admire and emulate.
    - a. The *athlete* is admired for his physical strength and mental endurance.
    - b. The *entrepreneur* is admired for his tenacity and success.
    - c. The *scholar-academic* is admired for his wisdom and insight.
  - 2. But God's hero is the *Servant of God*.  
—Obedience to God is the highest form of heroism.

**\*Questions for reflection:** (1) According to 17:4, what is the other basis for Jesus' glorification? (2) Based on Jesus' example, what is the most heroic trait in the eyes of God? (3) How does the high value of obedience to God shape the way you make decisions in life?

## VII. "To See My Glory"

*The ascension of Jesus is his glorification, his return to the divine glory that was once his. And we, his disciples, are destined to find our ultimate fulfillment in Jesus' glory. In light of those truths, God wants us to keep holding on to our Lord Jesus and to prepare ourselves for his glory. The way that God wants us to do so is by purifying ourselves from the impurities of this evil world and by cultivating our delight for the Lord Jesus here and now.*

- A. God wants us to hold on to Jesus, to keep trusting and resting in him.
  - 1. Salvation is by faith in Jesus.
  - 2. Knowing that Jesus will be our destiny motivates us to purify ourselves and start seeking God now.  
—Why would we want to purify ourselves if we are going to hell anyway?

- B. Since we are destined to see Jesus' glory, we purify ourselves from the impurities of this evil world.
  - 1. God himself asks this of us in 1 John 3:2-3.
  - 2. We must start putting aside sins and sinful patterns in our lives.
  - 3. Although this process will not be complete in this life, it must begin now!
  
- C. Since we are destined to see Jesus' glory, we begin cultivating delight in Jesus now.
  - 1. This is the other side of putting away our sins.
  - 2. Unless we have a delight greater than our sins, we can never have much success in purifying ourselves.
  - 3. Jesus wants to be the One who is more delightful than sin. Jesus wants his glory to fill our hearts so that the lure of sin becomes weaker and weaker.
  - 4. We cultivate delight in Jesus by...
    - a. keeping the glory of Jesus at the center of our thoughts.
    - b. reading God's Word often.
    - c. asking God for more delight in Jesus.

**\*Questions for reflection:** (1) How does God want us to be preparing ourselves to see the Son in all his glory? (2) What are some temptations that continue to trip you? How is Jesus greater than each of your temptations? How will you use the glory of Jesus to offset those temptations? (3) How do we cultivate delight in Jesus? What changes must you make in your own life to help you cultivate delight in Jesus?