

John 17:1-5 – Jesus Prays For Himself

10/8/16 Sat Morn Prayer

JESUS PAID IT ALL – Elvina Hall; sung by Joslin Choral Society

I hear the Savior say, "Thy strength indeed is small; Child of weakness, watch and pray, Find in Me thine all in all."

Refrain - Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe; Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.

Lord, now indeed I find Thy power and Thine alone, Can change the leper's spots And melt the heart of stone. Refrain

And when before the throne I stand in Him complete, "Jesus died my soul to save," My lips shall still repeat.

Refrain - Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe; Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.

He washed it white as snow.

John 17:1-5 "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, [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. [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.

Context/Biblical Background – John 17 culminates the discussion with His disciples in the Upper Room - John 13-14 and the continuing discussion in Chapters 15-16 as they make their way from the Upper Room to Gethsemane. Here we have this "Holy Ground" chapter 17 – The Great High Priestly Prayer!

Joh 17:1 Jesus spoke these words.

- This prayer Jesus prayed unto His God and Father, which is *the only long, continuous prayer of Jesus recorded in the Gospels*. The sentences are simple, but the ideas are deep, moving, and meaningful.
- There is something different in this prayer; Jesus did not pray just as He told His disciples to pray. This prayer is clearly no prayer of an inferior to a superior. The Two have but one mind. Where the Son speaks He is not seeking to bend The Father to Him: rather is **He voicing the purpose of the Godhead.**"
- Jesus has an ongoing, present work of intercession for His people (*Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25*).

lifted up His eyes to heaven.

- This indicates the physical posture of Jesus as He prayed, one we don't usually associate with deep prayer.
- "In the sacred record, however, much more space is taken up by our Lords intercessions as He nears the end of His labors. After the closing supper, His public preaching work being ended, and nothing remaining to be done but to die, He gave himself wholly unto prayer. He was not again to instruct the multitude, nor to heal the sick, and in the interval which remained, before he should lay down his life, **He girded himself for special intercession. He poured out his soul in life before He poured it out unto death.**" (Spurgeon)
- This remarkable prayer is made with a heart and mind looking **up** towards **heaven**. Jesus made no mention of His problems or the decisions He must make. **His heart and mind were fixed on the highest things, pledging Himself to the absolutely fulfillment of God the Father's will no matter what the cost, so that eternal life could come to others.**

and said: "Father, the hour has come.

- Before, Jesus' hour of glorification (beginning with His death) had not yet come. (*Mar 14:41*) *Then He came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough! **The hour has come**: behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. **Joh 2:4** Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? **My hour has not yet come.**" **Joh 12:23**) But Jesus answered them, saying, "**The hour has come** that the Son of Man should be glorified.*
- Now, **the hour has come** (as Jesus said before at **John 12:23** ")
- Note the words: **Father . . . Your Son . . . Your Son . . . You**. This is a prayer deep and rich with *relationship*. Jesus **prayed with a full and deep sense of the relationship between God the Father and God the Son.**
- **The hour:** "His faith thinks it but an hour: the midnight of Gethsemane, the morning of the scourging, the day of the crucifixion, all are but an hour, a short space. Thus **His love and patience make Him despise the time of shame and reckon it but a brief interval.**" (Spurgeon)

Glorify Your Son,

- **Glorify** - δοξάζω, doxazō, dox-ad'-zo, to render (or esteem) glorious (in a wide application): - (make) glorify (-ious), full of (have) **glory, honor, magnify.**
- **Your Son:** Jesus prayed first for Himself, but His petition was not selfish. His concern for Himself was actually a concern for the glory of the Father. The **Son can only glorify** the Father if the Father **first** answers the prayer of the Son, "**Glorify Your Son.**"
- **It will bring no glory to the Father if Jesus sacrifice on the cross is not acceptable, or if the Son is not restored to his rightful place in the presence of the Fathers unshielded glory.**
- **The hour has come . . . Glorify Your Son:** It is the *cross* (see *John 12:27-33, 13:30-33, 21:18-19*) that will glorify the Son. The cross was utter humiliation to the world, but it **was an instrument of glorification in Gods eyes**. This is an aspect of the foolishness and weakness of the cross (*1 Corinthians 1:18, 1:23-25*).

- *This prayer was wonderfully answered.* Yes, the Father glorified his Son, even when it pleased Him to bruise Him and to put Him to grief. With one hand He smote, and with the other He glorified. There was a power to crush, but there was also a power to sustain working at the self-same time. The Father glorified His Son" (Spurgeon)

that Your Son also may glorify You.

- In its counter-intuitive work, **the cross glorified Jesus the Son and displayed the wisdom and the power of God (1 Corinthians 1:23-25).** Yet it also glorified God the Father, by displaying His wise plan and great sacrifice in giving the Son to do such a work.

as You have given Him authority over all flesh.

- Jesus claimed to have **authority over all flesh** with the ability to **give eternal life** to mankind. **This is a clear and startling claim to deity; no One but God could truthfully and knowingly make this claim.**
- Jesus here claimed authority to determine the ultimate destiny of me. This gives us new hope for evangelism and missionary work, knowing that Jesus has **authority over all flesh**. Even for those who reject Jesus or are ignorant of Him, even if they do not know it or acknowledge it, Jesus has **authority over** them. We can pray in faith and ask Jesus to exercise that authority over those who have yet to repent and believe.
- *Philippians 2:5-11* is a demonstration of this, that *all* will recognize the authority of Jesus; every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.

- Jesus understood that He was and is the One who grants **eternal life** to those **given** to Him by the Father. We Christians often think of Jesus as God's gift to us; we rarely think of ourselves as God's gift to His Son.

Joh 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know (to arrive at a knowledge of something or someone, to know, to make acquaintance of) You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

- Eternal life is found in an experiential knowledge (*ginosko*) of **both God the Father and Jesus Christ, God the Son.**
- Eternal life means that we are alive and active to God's environment. If God and His spiritual environment does not affect and even dominate our life, then it can be said that we do not have or experience **eternal life**.
- **That they may know You:** The Greek the verb is in the present subjunctive indicating the **'knowledge' is a growing experience.**
- Are you sure that you have eternal life? Cf. *1 John 5:11-13* Do you really know God and His Son Jesus Christ?
- Is Jesus glorified in us? Does Jesus shine brighter because of us? Do we darken or reflect His pure light?

Joh 17:4 I have glorified You on the earth.

- Jesus did not wait until the cross to glorify God the Father. His entire life **glorified God on the earth.**
- Jesus **glorified** the Father **through His faith, obedience, and work through the years** of His earthly ministry. Every sermon preached, every blind or sick person healed, every bit of instruction and training for the disciples, every confrontation with the corrupt religious leaders, every question answered, every loving touch - they all **glorified** God the Father.

I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. (What tremendously powerful statements!!)

- Jesus, with divine confidence/assurance, **saw the work on the cross as already finished.**
- Jesus has completed His task adequately, and brought glory to the Father in the process.
- Have you, have I, finished the work which we have been given to do here on earth?

Joh 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

- Christ prayed **twice that He might be glorified.** Why?-- **that the Father might be glorified through the Son!**
- Jesus asked the Father to **glorify** Him, but with the *same glory* that the Father Himself has. Jesus' prayer was in no way an expression of **independence, but of utter and continued dependence upon God the Father.**
- Jesus was aware of His pre-existence, and of the nature of that pre-existence. Jesus understood there was a time in eternity past when God the Son and God the Father enjoyed a shared glory.

SUMMARY:

- **Meditate, pray for understanding of this awesome prayer of Jesus -- the prayer of prayers!**
- **Note well that the Father is glorified by the Son through His finished work on the cross, that we may live!**
- **Our purpose for our life is to glorify the Lord and to glorify Him completely!!**

PRAY TODAY FOR: (Name persons, name things, take direct aim at the objective of your supplications)

- **Our Church, Nationally and locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; for kings and those in authority**
- **Our Current Pres/VP Candidates: Donald Trump; Hillary Clinton; Mike Pence; Tim Kaine**
- **Police officers/military & all those upholding law & order - When in small groups - Personal Prayers:**

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Saturday, October 08, 2016

This Evening's Meditation

C. H. Spurgeon

"Praying in the Holy Ghost."—Jude 20.



ARK the grand characteristic of true prayer—"In the Holy Ghost." The seed of acceptable devotion must come from heaven's storehouse. Only the prayer which comes from God can go to God. We must shoot the Lord's arrows back to Him. That desire which He writes upon our heart will move His heart and bring down a blessing, but the desires of the flesh have no power with Him.

Praying in the Holy Ghost is **praying in fervency**. Cold prayers ask the Lord not to hear them. Those who do not plead with fervency, plead not at all. As well speak of lukewarm fire as of lukewarm prayer—it is essential that it be red hot.

It is **praying perseveringly**. The true suppliant gathers force as he proceeds, and grows more fervent when God delays to answer. The longer the gate is closed, the more vehemently does he use the knocker, and the longer the angel lingers the more resolved is he that he will never let him go without the blessing. Beautiful in God's sight is tearful, agonizing, unconquerable importunity.

It means **praying humbly**, for the Holy Spirit never puffs us up with pride. It is His office to convince of sin, and so to bow us down in contrition and brokenness of spirit. We shall never sing *Gloria in excelsis* except we pray to God *De profundis*: out of the depths must we cry, or we shall never behold glory in the highest.

It is **loving prayer**. Prayer should be perfumed with love, saturated with love—love to our fellow saints, and love to Christ.

Moreover, it must be a **prayer full of faith**. A man prevails only as he believes. The Holy Spirit is the author of faith, and strengthens it, so that we pray believing God's promise. O that this blessed combination of excellent graces, priceless and sweet as the spices of the merchant, might be fragrant within us because the Holy Ghost is in our hearts! Most blessed Comforter, exert Thy mighty power within us, helping our infirmities in prayer.