

Giver of Glory and Joy

Portraits of Jesus—John 17

March 14, 2021

DAY 1: Glory

1. Underline the words “glory” and “glorify” in the following verses.

John 17:1 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.

³ Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

⁴ I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

2. How many times did Jesus say “glory” and “glorify”? _____

3. When you think of the word “glory” what comes to mind?

4. Many times when you hear the word “glory” you think of someone who is a “glory hog.” In the work world it is someone who takes more credit for a project than is deserved, usually at the expense of others who worked on the project.

5. To “glorify” something is to shine the bright lights on it in order to see its beauty or strength. Car dealerships spend thousands of dollars in their showrooms on lights. They hope that the lights gleaming off the chrome and painted metal of the car will dazzle you, and make you want to buy the car.

6. To “glorify” something also means to show the merits of something or someone. We “glorify” a restaurant when we give it a five-star review. A five-star resort is the top of the line in luxury, amenities and features. To glorify someone or something is to extol its virtues, its worthiness.

7. Why does God the Father want to glorify God the Son?

8. Why does God the Son want to glorify God the Father?

9. When God is glorified, and when Christ is glorified on the cross, people will see the worthiness of God’s character and Christ’s love. We will devote ourselves to Him. And it is that decision that sets us up to experience life “to the full.”

10. How does Jesus define “eternal life” in verse 3?

11. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

DAY 2: The Larger Story

John 17:6 I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you.

1. While we are living our daily lives of family, work, church and recreation, there is another story going on in our lives, directed from heaven.
2. How does Jesus describe this larger story in John 17:6-7? From these verses, answer these questions.
 - a. What has God been doing?
 - b. What has Jesus been doing?
 - c. What are His followers doing?

John 17:8 For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

3. Here is another picture of the larger story.
 - a. What has God been doing?
 - b. What has Jesus been doing?
 - c. What are His followers doing?

John 17:9 I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. (10) All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. (11) I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name--the name you gave me--so that...

4. Jesus prays for the protection of His disciples. How do you think He is going to finish this prayer? "...so that... what??"

John 17:11b ... they may be one as we are one.

John 17:12 While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

5. What strikes you from Jesus' prayer, so far?

DAY 3: “Joy is the serious business of heaven.” -C.S. Lewis

*John 17:13 "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, **so that** they may have **the full measure of my joy within them**.*

1. Before I became a Christian I thought God was a killjoy. I heard a lot of “thou shalt not’s...”
2. I had no clue about God or commandments or about joy!
 - a. I thought joy was synonymous with happiness. I was wrong.
 - b. I thought joy was found outside of me, in the world. Wrong again.
 - c. I thought God’s commandments were meant to prohibit joy. The exact opposite is true.

3. Joy is something that originates *within* you by God’s working.

John 17:14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.

4. What do you think Jesus means when He says that we as believers are not “of the world?”

John 17:15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.

5. Being “of the world” means to be governed by the ways of the world, the thinking of the world, the values of the world.

6. As Christians, we are now governed by God, the bible, and what the bible values. Our old thinking (“stinkin’ thinkin’) is being transformed (Romans 12:2).

John 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

7. “Sanctify” means to set something apart for a special (or holy) purpose. We are no longer living for ourselves but for Him, and the purposes of God.

8. God’s truth is our North Star. He guides us, what we value, why we live, what we hope to accomplish as we serve Him—by His truth.

John 17:18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.

¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

9. Every believer has a divine assignment! You have a purpose to your life no matter your health, your work, your difficulties, challenges, and weaknesses.

10. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

DAY 4: Oneness, the joy of connecting deeply

1. Jesus next prays for every believer down through the ages!

John 17:20b "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message ...

2. If you were going to pray for every believer down through the ages for what would you pray?

3. Here is how He finishes that sentence:

John 17:21 ...**that all of them may be one**, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

4. When I was a young Christian I thought of oneness as doctrinal oneness, or that all churches had to act alike. If that is the case, Jesus' prayer obviously failed!

5. So what did Jesus mean that His followers may be one? He explains by way of illustration what He means by oneness.

"...just as you are in Me and I am in You."

6. What Jesus is describing is *relational* oneness. It is a kind of love that deeply connects and blesses someone else at any cost to the one loving.

7. How can we enjoy that kind of love? Often, we torpedo that kind of oneness through self-centeredness, petty arguing, hurt feelings, etc.

8. Jesus tells us how we can enjoy that kind of oneness.

John 17:22 **I have given them the glory that you gave me**, that they may be one as we are one: ²³ *I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.*

9. This kind of love that produces oneness originates in God Himself. The "glory" Jesus mentions here is the needed "ingredient" that makes oneness possible. The glory is what theologians call Trinitarian glory, the lavish, other-centered love that blesses each other member of the Trinity without thought as to what He receives.

10. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 5: The glory of God, the glory of Jesus, and the coming glory!

John 17:24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world."

1. The "Big Dance" is in heaven. It will be life without tears, sadness, heartache, disease, natural disasters, and especially, life without sin and all the misery sin causes.

2. It will especially be heaven because Jesus will be there!

3. The glory Jesus is talking about is Trinitarian glory, that perfect, other-centered love that is lavished among God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

4. You and I will lavish and be lavished on with His love!

John 17:25 "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me."

5. His mission, and now our mission is to reach people who do not know God in this way.

John 17:26 "I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that ..."

6. How do you think Jesus will finish this prayer? ... "in order that _____"

7. Here's how He finishes:

"...in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

8. What strikes you most from John 17, and Jesus' prayer?