



8/10/26

John 17:1-12

*With this week being all about storming the throne for the harvest, it seems very appropriate to consider more reasons why we should rehearse the gospel to ourselves every day. Our next reason is about celebrating the free gift of righteousness we have in Jesus. God counts us as positionally righteous before Him because Jesus has made us righteous through His blood. We also know that experientially, we are being sanctified to match our experiential righteousness with our positional righteousness... something that won't be fully realized until the Lord takes us home. Yet it's still something we can be confident in because of God's faithfulness, as I also learn from Jerry Bridges' book, *The Blessing of Humility*. I love how Milton Vincent describes this in *A Gospel Primer*. He says, "On my worst days of sin and failure, the gospel encourages me with God's unrelenting grace toward me. On my best days of victory and usefulness, the gospel keeps me relating to God solely on the basis of Jesus' righteousness and not mine." God meets us wherever we are. Praise His name!*

*Blessings,
Jonna*

John 17:1-12

It was the night of Jesus' betrayal and arrest. He ate the Passover meal with His disciples. He washed their feet in complete humility and servant leadership. He spoke of the Holy Spirit. He spoke of the need to abide in Him. He spoke of what was about to happen to Him. And then He prayed. He spoke to His disciples, and then He spoke to His Father, and then He poured out His soul to death for my sake.

Jesus prayed. What did He pray? What did He want me to learn from His prayer? 1 John 2:6 says that God wants me to "walk in the way in which He walked." If I apply this prayer to my life, how will it affect the way I walk?

Vs. 1-2 ~ "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."

Jesus spoke to the disciples all about His imminent departure, and then He lifted up His eyes to the Father. What can I learn from Jesus' example? Lift my eyes to the Father in prayer, especially when I'm facing difficult circumstances. Don't avoid God. Don't think, "Well, He already knows so there's no need to pray." Understand that prayer is a deepening of relationship with the Lord... and talk to Him A LOT.

Jesus said, "Father, the hour has come." What hour? The hour that He had been waiting for... for thousands of years. It was the hour when He would be arrested, tried, convicted, and crucified for the salvation of the world.

"Glorify Your Son... (purpose statement) THAT the Son may glorify You." Scripture says, "Humble yourself before the Lord, and He will lift you up." Jesus humbled Himself to the point of death, and the Father glorified Him for it. Even Jesus' request to be glorified, though, was that He could glorify the Father more. That is definitely something I need to apply to my life. I am not the end of the glory I receive. Any glory given to me is more opportunity to point to the glory of God.

How did Jesus plan to glorify the Father? By giving eternal life to the people whom God had given Him. There is so much mutual relationship going on here. The Father glorifies the Son. The Son glorifies the Father. The Son gives eternal life to people so that they can have a relationship with the Father. If I'm not sure that it's about relationship, vs. 3 will drive the point home.

Vs. 3 ~ "And this is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

What is eternal life? Relationship with the Father and the Son. To KNOW God. The word for know is ginosko, which means "to know experientially, up close and personal." Eternal life is not about geography, but about relationship. Jesus came and gave Himself so that I could know Him and the Father, not just know about them, but know them.

Vs. 4-5 ~ "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."

How did Jesus glorify the Father? He accomplished what God had sent Him to do. How do I glorify the Son and the Father? Do the work I've been sent to do. I have the promise from Ephesians 2:10 that "God has made us His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand (before the foundation of the world), that we should walk in them." God has a purpose for me, just like Jesus had a purpose. All the purposes of God will be for my good and His glory. Am I seeking to honor God in doing the things He's prepared for me to do? Is honoring God my priority? O Lord, please make it so.

Jesus accomplished the work He was sent to do... and that was for my salvation. Because He was so faithful to the Father, He was able to ask Him to restore to Him the glory that He had with the Father before the world existed. Jesus emptied Himself of His glory so that I could have eternal life, know the Father, and serve the Father by doing the works He's prepared for me to do. Now that Jesus has accomplished His purpose, He's back on His throne in heaven in the presence of the Father, and His glory is restored. Jesus didn't just want His glory restored. He wanted to be back in the presence of His Father. Do I care more about my glory or the Father's presence in my life? Truly, God's presence in my life IS the glory I need. O Lord, let my life be about relationship with You, as it was for Jesus.

Vs. 6-8 ~ "I have manifested Your name to the people whom You gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and You gave them to me, and they have kept Your word. Now they know that everything that You have given Me is from You. For I have given them the words that You gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from You; and they have believed that You sent Me."

What was the work Jesus had prepared to do to glorify the Father? Make His name known to all who would believe in Him. Isn't that the work He has for me? To make His name known to all who would turn to Him in the world?

How did Jesus make the Father's name known? He modeled the character of the Father to the world, and He unapologetically spoke the truth about the Father. That's what I'm called to do. Jesus is the exact nature of the Father. As the Holy Spirit transforms me, I become more and more like Jesus. And all along the way, in whatever way God has designed for me, I get to be an example to the world of who God is... by the way I love, by the way I serve, by the way I show my love for Him through word and action.

Here, Jesus is speaking about His disciples. God chose them. When I look back at the calling of the disciples, I see that none of them went after Jesus. He pursued every one of them, and they responded to the call.

I find it very relieving that Jesus said they had kept His word. I know that they didn't keep His word perfectly, but Jesus knew their hearts were for Him (other than Judas, which I'll see talked about in vs. 12). That very night, Jesus had already told Peter he was going to deny that he knew Him. God's mercy on display. He knows we'll fail. He doesn't expect perfection. But He knows those whose hearts are truly set on Him.

Vs. 9-10 ~ "I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. All Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them."

At this moment, Jesus was lifting up those who the Lord had given Him out of the world. They belonged to the Father and so they belonged to the Son. This brought Jesus glory. The glory

of God is so different than the glory of the world. The glory of the world is all about SELF and being above everyone else. The glory of God is all about oneness and relationship.

Vs. 11-12 ~ "And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given Me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in Your name, which You have given Me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled."

Jesus was speaking as though His work was already accomplished by saying, "I am no longer in the world." When He says it, it's as good as done because He ALWAYS does what He says He will do. He has the power, the wisdom, and the love to accomplish everything He says. Jesus knew He was about to leave to return to heaven... after suffering the full wrath of God poured out on Him for my sin... and so instead of praying in that moment about what He was about to suffer, He prayed about His people... that the Father would protect them now that He wasn't going to be physically with them anymore.

Let me understand this... there is a spiritual battle going on while we are in this world. Jesus was actively guarding the disciples while He was with them. The only one who ever left Him for good was Judas, the son of destruction. All the rest followed Him faithfully until the day they died, all but one being executed for their faith in Him. Jesus prayed for them, and for me, because He knew we needed it. None of us have the power to stay with Him without His help. I'm in awe that He took that time to pray for us on the night He was arrested.

What do I see in His example? I see that salvation is far more about a relationship with God than a location. I learn that divine glory fosters deep unity. I learn that divine glory exemplifies servanthood... and being a servant doesn't make me inferior or weak... it makes me like Jesus. I see that relationship with God means lots and lots of conversation with Him. O Lord, I praise You that You want that with me!!! I praise You that in Your strength You keep me in Your name. I praise You, Jesus, for setting down Your glory so that I could have eternal life. I praise You that You are now glorified, and no one can take that away.