

The First Thing on Jesus' Mind When He Prayed

John 17

Speaking of Jesus, the apostle John said, "We have seen his glory." (John 1:14) During the next few months as Easter approaches, we will be learning about Christ's glory from the Gospel of John.

Jesus is about to die—and glory is on his mind. Read His prayer in John 17.

God's glory was Jesus' **passion** and His **possession**:

(1) Passion

Jesus' first request is the Father's glory: "Glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you..." (John 17:1)

- God's glory is a big deal. (Is 48:9-11, 43:6-7; Psalm 106:7-8; Ezek 20:14, 36:22-23; 2 Kgs 19:34)
- How's this related to our sanctification, our personal growth in Christ?
 - From the Westminster Shorter Catechism: *Q. 1. What is the chief end of man? A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.*
- Passion turns into practice:
 - *How* to glorify God: "I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do." (John 17:4)

- Same for us! "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

(2) Possession

- This is no ordinary man! "And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed." (John 17:5)
- Knowing Jesus will mean seeing His glory:
 - Jesus prays that we might see His glory: "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." John 17:24

Questions for Reflection and Application:

1. God's glory is a big deal. Look up these verses: Is 48:9-11, 43:6-7; Psalm 106:7-8; Ezek 20:14, 36:22-23; 2 Kgs 19:34.
 - a. Some people struggle with God doing things for His own glory. Why? What greater thing do we think should motivate Him?
 - b. Why is it wrong for us to do things for our glory, but right for God to do this?
2. Read Jesus' prayer in John 17.
 - a. How do we see that God's glory is Christ's passion?
 - b. How do we see that God's glory is Christ's possession?
3. How can you practically live for God's glory? Consider John 3:30.