

Readings

Scripture

¹When 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, ²since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed."

- John 17:1-5 (English Standard Version)

Reflection

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
 In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
 Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
 Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
 Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
 All praise we would render: O help us to see
 'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee.

- Walter Chalmers Smith

Jesus despised the shame of the cross because in it he saw not shame but glory. In God's sight the cross was the greatest manifestation of his glory and the focal point of all of human history. Pointing forward to the cross, Jesus told his disciples, "Now is the Son of man glorified; if God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and glorify him at once" (Jn. 13:31-32). Notice the emphasis on glory. Jesus had not forgotten the agony that was to come, but the cross was glory because it would show the character of God displayed and magnified. Here they would see the extent of his love for men and women demonstrated the way it had never been demonstrated before. The source of God's glory can be humankind's shame.

- Dick Keyes, *Beyond Identity* (p. 118)

Sermon Outline

Sweet Hour of Prayer

John 17:1-5

Table Talk in an Upper Room

Brad Anderson

God's glory is uniquely revealed in the hour of Jesus Christ's suffering... (John 17:1-3)

How is the Father glorified in the suffering of Jesus Christ?

As the shame of the incarnation is reversed. (John 17:4)

As the splendor of the exaltation is restored. (John 17:5)

Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- What is the biggest decision you ever made? How did it alter the rest of your life?
- What does Jesus request in this prayer? What does it mean to glorify someone? How has Jesus done this for the Father? And vice versa, the Father for Jesus? How is Jesus' deity emphasized here?
- What has been Jesus' mission?
- Do you "know" you have eternal life?
- Whose glory does your life reflect most: Your own? Your earthly father's? Your Heavenly Father's? What indicators would display your true answer?