

Day 02 – *January 14*

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May I Glorify You
Key Verse John 17:1-5

“After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour 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 know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. 4 I have brought you glory on earth by finishing 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.”

There are many times in the Bible when we find Jesus praying. Think of all of the times Jesus, “gives thanks” before a meal. How many times have you read the phrase, “Jesus was praying” or “He was alone praying” or even when Jesus, “went to a solitary place” to pray? Jesus prayed before someone was healed. He prayed after someone was healed. Jesus prayed about important decisions. There is a verse in the book of Thessalonians that encourages followers of Christ should, “pray without ceasing,”. It certainly seems like Jesus was constantly in ‘prayer mode’ doesn’t it? Even when the Bible does not mention Jesus was praying . . . we can read when He teaches about the importance of prayer. Are you familiar with the Lord’s Prayer from Matthew 6? Jesus started that prayer by saying, “this is how you should pray.”

John 17 is a very interesting and unique

portion of the Bible because we have the opportunity to read and experience a full-on prayer of Jesus. This was not a one-line prayer! Jesus intentionally prayed in such a way that it was overheard and could be recorded so believers throughout all of time could read and reflect on it.

Our Scripture starts off with the words, “after Jesus said this,” and so I think it’s important we look back on what Jesus said. Right before this prayer, Jesus says to His disciples some of the most encouraging words in the entire Bible. “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33). Even before they would become aware of the fact they would need a reminder, Jesus tells them that His victory would be certain – even if they would soon become convinced that it was lost.

This was a pivotal moment in all of history. Earlier in the book of John (John 2:4), Jesus says to someone that His, “hour has not yet come.” Now, however, we’ve come to the end of Jesus’ time on earth. He was preparing to go to the cross. This was it. The time to complete what He was on earth to do had arrived. Jesus became a man so that He could live a perfect life, die in our place, experience a bodily resurrection and give us eternal life. Now, Jesus was preparing to return home.

This part of Jesus’ prayer is very similar to the beginning of Lord’s Prayer. “Our Father in

heaven, hallowed be your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done.” This is what Jesus has done on earth. He has “hallowed” His Father by obeying Him fully with His life. He has glorified God through His life. To hallow means to devote one’s life fully to God. This is what brings great glory to God. For us to glorify God, we need to live our lives centred around living in a way that demonstrates our full devotion to God.

What does that look like in real life? How we use our words. How we serve others without complaining. How we respond to adversity. How we treat our possessions. How we think about others. How we look forward to the future. Let’s glorify God by demonstrating our faith in action.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

Do you find it easier or harder to devote yourself fully to God at this point in your life?

What words/actions (to others) do you need to drop because they don’t glorify God?

What is one thing you can do today that would demonstrate your faith in action?

PRAYER:

Father God, I thank You for giving me opportunities to point others to You. I pray that You will help me with my words and my actions so that I may glorify You and not myself. I want to live a life that glorifies You. I want to live a life that is fully devoted to You. I ask that You would give me the strength and the courage to connect with You daily and demonstrate to those around me how much I love you. In Jesus’ name. Amen.