

Glory with Us

“Glory that Transforms” — John 17

December 5/6
from Pastor Jeff McNicol

Question of the week: If you could change one thing about your personality how would you be different?

Pathway to Life: Has anyone had an opportunity to engage in a spiritual conversation with an unbeliever, or share your faith this week? Describe what happened.

Open with Prayer: Ask God to open your minds and hearts to discern His will for your lives through His Word.

Introduction

The glory of God was perfectly manifested in Jesus Christ. In fact, Colossians 1:15 says, “The Son is the image of the invisible God.” Encountering the glory of God in Jesus Christ results in a transformed life from the inside out. As you continue reflecting on the message from last weekend at Pathway, discuss the following questions with your Small Group and consider how is it that God is transforming you.

Revisit the Sermon:

Read John 17:1-4 and discuss the following questions.

1. Living God’s will displays glory.

- What is at the heart of Jesus’ comment, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you”(v.1)? What is Jesus asking of the Father? What is Jesus preparing to do to glorify the Father?
- How does the cross, which in the first century A.D. was considered the most humiliating and nightmarish way to put criminals to death, transformed into a magnificent instrument of God’s glory?
- If doing the will of God brings glory to God it is important for us to understand God’s will. How do you understand God’s will? What is it? How can you carry it out in private? At home? At work? In Christian community? Amongst non-Christians?

When Jesus
went to the cross
the character of
God did not
change, but our
understanding of
it does.

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2. Experiencing God’s glory brings unity.

Read John 17:20-23

- What does unity look like?
- Why do you think unity in the church is important to God? Why is it so difficult to achieve unity?
- Pastor Jeff suggested in his sermon that, “Unity is not achieved in finding something *between* us; rather, unity is found in pursuing something *beyond* us.” How will seeking the glory of God bring unity in the church amongst many differences?

3. Receiving God’s salvation exposes glory.

- How does knowing Jesus transform us inwardly and outwardly in a way that brings glory to God? (*Be specific. Share from your personal experience.*)
- What can you do to know Jesus more?

Conclusion:

God’s glory displayed in the work of Christ transforms our priorities, our relationships, and our identity. With Christ, life is no longer about *who* we are, but instead, *whose* we are — namely, children of a conquering King.

Close in Prayer: Share personal praises and prayer requests, and also ask God to continue transforming you inwardly and outwardly so that you might bring glory to Him!