Morning Sermon June 2, 2019
"Praying for His Own Glory" John 17:1-5

What is the chief end of man?
Man' s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever. W.S.C.

I. Jesus' praying for His own glory shows He is God –

17 Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,

1. *I have heard people say that God is wrong, arrogant, Narcissistic because He seeks His own glory. Here, Jesus Christ, the God-man prays for His own glorification!*

A. *Imagine what Jesus' enemies would have thought if they would have heard this prayer? They were ready to stone Him before, when He said –*

56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw *it* and was glad." 57 Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" 58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." 59 Then they took up stones to throw at Him;… John 8:56-59 A

B. *If Jesus' enemies were correct about Jesus being a mere man, He would be sinning seeking His own glory –*

8 I *am* the LORD, that *is* My name; And My glory I will not give to another,… Isaiah 42:8

2. *Today those who call God arrogant typically are atheists or feminist or both –*

Rosemary Radford Reuther in her book Sexism and God-Talk writes "The Christ figure reinforces the androcentric bias of these concepts of androgyny. Christ represents the male as the normative human person. Femaleness represents the lower instinctual and bodily side of "man"…"

Basically, according to Reuther, Jesus as the God-Man, the Christ, is a figment of male imagination, thought of in order to subjugate women. A Father in Heaven, in control, sovereign is seen the same way.

I mention this ideology because it is anti-God, anti-Father in Heaven, anti- Christ having **"authority over all flesh" John 17:2;** *Anti- Christ being God or deserving glory as God.*

Yet, our Lord Jesus Christ could not pray . **"Glorify Your Son" John 17:1** *without truly being God's Infinite, Eternal, Unchangeable, All-Powerful, All-Wise Son!*

II. Jesus' praying for His own glory, particularly when He did, right before taking the cross; shows He is God's Son in a wonderful way –

"Father, the hour has come…. John 17:1

The hour: He has stopped teaching His disciples. He is praying His second to last prayer, His Gethsemane prayer was next. He will soon be crucified; He will die and be buried! At least part of His glory is the GLORY of the cross!

1. *The cross was not considered "glorious"*
   A. *It was a death reserved for the worst criminals*
   B. *Roman citizens were never crucified*

2. *Yet the CROSS is central to the different,* **"higher"** *ways of God –*

6 Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. 8 "For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways," says the LORD. 9 "For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:6-9

God would save sinful human beings through the "foolishness" of the cross –

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written: *"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent."* 20 Where *is* the wise? Where *is* the scribe? Where *is* the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

A. *So high and glorious that it is foolishness to those who do not understand it!*
B. *The cross glorifies God by showing His justice, His great wrath against sin!*
C. *The cross glorifies God by showing His great love for lost sinners!*

Part of the meaning of the Greek word **δόξα** *glory is to shine bright, to make something known! Christ's death one the cross shines forth both God's justice and love!*

III. Jesus' praying for His own glory means He is doing what is best, even for us, His people –

4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. 5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. John 17:2-5

1. *Christ has authority over all flesh –*

2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh, … John 17:2 A

36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." Acts 2:36

2. *Through Him and knowledge of Him and God, which comes from His being glorified, we have eternal life –*

… that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17:2B – 3

1. *We were created for a purpose, to glorify God –*

11 "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created." Revelation 4:11

2. *Human beings were created in God's image –*

Genesis 1:26-28

A. *In knowledge – Colossians 3:10*
B. *Righteousness – Ephesians 4:24*
C. *Holiness – Ephesians 4:24*

3. *We lost these by our sins … Christ as Prophet restores our knowledge, As Priest restores our righteousness and as King restores our holiness … so just as we were created to glorify God we are also redeemed to and for that same purpose!*

4. *When Christ said He glorified God on earth -*

4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. John 17:4

A. *Referring to teaching as Prophet –*

18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*. John 1:18

B. *Perfect sinless, devoted to God life, which is the Rule He gives us, as King –*

14 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those *who are* with Him *are* called, chosen, and faithful." Revelation 17:14

C. *Death, sacrifice which He offers as High Priest –*

25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. 26 For such a High Priest was fitting for us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; 27 who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. Hebrews 7:25-27