

## **Day 1: Read John 17:1-5**

### **THE GLORY OF THE CROSS**

It does seem strange that for many famous people in history it is not until their death, do they find their glory.

Abraham Lincoln had his enemies and critics. Stanton, his war minister, who regarded Lincoln as crude and uncouth and looked upon him with contempt, looked down at his dead body with tears in his eyes. "there lies," he said "the greatest ruler of men the world has ever seen".

Joan of Arc was burned at the stake as a witch and heretic by the English. Among the crowds there was an English man who had sworn to add a faggott to the fire. "Would that my soul," he said, "were where the soul of that women is!" And another left the scene saying "we are all lost because we have burned a saint".

It was so with Jesus, for even the Centurion at the foot of the Cross was left saying; "Truly, this was the Son of God." (Matt 27v54).

The Cross was the Glory of Jesus, because he was never more majestic than in his death. The Cross was his Glory because it drew people to Him in a way that even his life had never done – and still does!

It was also the completion of His work (v4), for Jesus to stop short of the Cross would have been to leave His ministry unfinished.

He came to tell us about the love of God and to show us by going to the Cross, that there was nothing that the love of God was not prepared to do and suffer for people, that there was literally no limit to it.

I asked Jesus, "How much do you love me?" and Jesus said "This much...", then he spread out his arms and died for me.

### **Worship:**

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and grief's to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!

### **Pray:**

With thankful, grateful hearts for the Cross.

## Day 2 Read – John 17:1-5

### **TODAY'S FREE OFFER - ETERNAL LIFE**

Like any offer we need to read the small print to see how genuine it is.

Verse 3 says; it is eternal life to know God and to know Jesus Christ, whom he has sent. Let us remind ourselves what 'eternal' means. In greek it is, not so much to do with the duration of life but more the quality of life. And there is only one person, 'aio nis can properly be applied to and that is God! Eternal life is therefore, nothing other than the Life of God.

To possess it, to enter into it, is to experience here and now something of the splendour, majesty, joy, peace and the holiness which are characteristic of the life of God. We know these things; but we could never have known them unless Jesus had come to tell them. We enter into this new abundant life, we share something of the life of God himself, when, through the work of Jesus, we discover what God is like. It is eternal life to know what God is like. To know God is to be on the most intimate terms of friendship, fellowship and relationship with Him; and neither of these is possible without Jesus Christ.

Eternal Life is a free gift of God, simply give all of your own life over to Jesus and allow the holy Spirit to give you this knowledge of God so that your relationship will grow – after all it is the best offer you'll ever get in your lifetime!

### **Worship:**

O What peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear –  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in Prayer!

### **Pray:**

Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with the knowledge and love of God as you accept this fabulous gift of Eternal Life.

### **Day 3 Read: - John 17:6-8**

#### **THE WORK OF JESUS**

Jesus gives us a definition of the work that He did. He says to God, "I have shown forth your name" (v6).

In the O.T. a 'name' is used in a very special way, it means the whole character of the person in so far as it can be known. The Psalmist in Psalm 9:10 says, "Those who know thy name put their trust in Thee", which means that those who know what God is like, those who know His character and nature will be glad to put their whole trust in Him alone.

So, Jesus in saying these words is actually saying "I have enabled people to see the real nature of God" or in another way as in John 14:9, "He who has seen me has seen the Father". It is Jesus supreme claim that in Him alone, people can see the heart, the mind, and the character of God.

He is also making the unique claim that because of Him, God's name that was and is so sacred can be spoken now and through Him, He has brought the remote, invisible God so close that everyone can have a relationship with their Creator Father and speak intimately with Him.

#### **Worship:**

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged:  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!

#### **Pray:**

In the Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, that we may put our trust in 'him' to help us in our daily lives.

## **Day 4: Read John 17:6-8**

### **THE MEANING OF DISIPLESHIP**

Discipleship is based on the realisation that Jesus came forth from God. The disciple is a person who has realised Jesus is God's ambassador and that in his words we hear God's voice and in his deeds see God in action.

Discipleship is shown in obedience, Jesus calls us to follow Him and just as He submitted to His fathers will, we are to follow and carry out his commands.

Discipleship is pre-destined, we are called to follow, our ambition is to do whatever plan and purposes God has for us.

Jesus had two things here, a belief in God and a belief in people. Jesus had that confidence which comes from God. He was not afraid of small beginnings. He was not pessimistic about the future. It was as if He was saying "I have only eleven very ordinary men; but give me these eleven ordinary men and I will extra-ordinarily change the world". And he did!

We too must go forward with confidence belief in God and in people. Then we will never be pessimistic, because with these two beliefs the possibilities of life are endless. We with God's help and each others support, can change the world around us and transform many people's lives. JUST DO IT!

### **Worship**

Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows, share? Jesus knows our every weakness – take it to the Lord in prayer!

### **Prayer:**

Pray that with God's help we will be good, faithful disciples for Jesus.

## Day 5: read John 17:9-19

### **JESUS' PRAYER FOR HIS DISCIPLES**

Usually we advise people to keep their prayers short and to the point, with clarity and understanding. Well, I suppose because its Jesus, we can make an exception! It took me at a steady speed to read John 17, 3 minutes in one go!

And while on the surface it may seem difficult to understand, there is no doubting that it contains numerous truths so great we can only skim the surface of some of them. In these few verses alone Jesus' prayer can help us draw confidence in our own destiny and the fulfilment of the great commission to go and make disciples.

Firstly, the disciple is given to Jesus by God. We are a gift to Jesus from God! It means that the Spirit of God moves our hearts to respond to the love of Jesus.

Secondly, as a disciple, we give glory to Jesus. For we have been redeemed, the price has been paid so we worship, adore, honour, love and glorify our Lord and Saviour.

Thirdly, the disciple is commissioned to serve. God sent out Jesus, Jesus likewise sends us. His disciples out to serve a world in need to bring it and its people back to Jesus.

Jesus prayed some astounding things for His disciples: -

- He prayed that they might find and experience victory in the world not that we should escape from it and its realities.
- He prayed for unity, where there is division, exclusiveness, competition between and in churches the prayer of Jesus is frustrated. We are to be ONE, one with another, one with Jesus, one in the Spirit and one with our Father God.
- He prayed that God would protect us from the world, temptation and evil (sounds familiar).
- He prayed that we might live our lives in the Truth, that Jesus is, says and gives. "I am the Way, the Truth, the Life".

### **Worship:**

Are we weak and heavy – laden, cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Saviour, still our refuge!  
Take it to the Lord in Prayer!

### **Pray:**

Be honest with God, listen to Him, and tell Him your joys and sorrows. Let go, let God!

## Day 6: Read John 17:20-26

### **A TASTE OF WHAT'S TO COME!**

Is there anything you are looking forward to in the future? Or are you worried what tomorrow will bring? Well, these last few verses should be especially precious to us, for it is Jesus' prayer for US!

Jesus not only was concerned about the present but knew that the future would yield many who would come and put their trust in Him and give their lives for Him.

What was this unity for which Jesus prayed? It was a unity of personal relationship. We have already seen the union between Jesus and God was one of love and obedience. It was a unity of love for which Jesus prayed, a unity in which people really loved and cared for which other because they loved Him, a unity based entirely on the relationship between heart and heart.

The second promise we also need to take on board can be summed-up by an old commentator, who exclaimed about this passage. "O how great is the Christiana Glory!" And indeed it is!

We are given the same glory Jesus received from His Father – The cross was His Glory – Jesus clearly said in Luke's gospel to be a disciple of His, we are to take-up our cross daily – this is our glory!

Carrying our Cross daily is not a burden but a will of obedience to our Father God.

We have this special relationship with the Holy Trinity that enables us to remain hopeful about the present and certain about the future. For as Paul writes in 2 Tim 2:11-12 "If we have died with Him, we shall also live with Him, if we endure, we shall also reign with Him".

Remember this gift and the Promise of glory comes prior to the Cross, they are not words of despair but of hope and glory. We, who are in Christ Jesus are more than conquerors, we are victors in Christ.

### **Worship:**

Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?

Take it to the Lord in Prayer!

In His arms He'll take and shield thee, thou will find a solace there.

### **Pray:**

Give thanks and praise for the Lord is good and His love endures forever.

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