



*The Choice
to
Glorify God*

John 17:1

The Choice To Glorify God

- Queen Esther
 - **Esther 4:14 NCV**, “If you keep quiet at this time, someone else will help and save the Jewish people, but you and your father’s family will all die. And who knows, you may have been chosen queen for just such a time as this.”
 - Queen Esther had a choice to make
 - It wasn’t an easy choice
 - Had God really orchestrated the events in her life to place her here at this specific time
 - No place in Scripture where it says God spoke to Esther, Explained all the details, He promised success
 - She and others prayed, fasted then she placed herself into God’s will

The Choice To Glorify God

- Glorifying God is a choice we must personally make regardless of our circumstances, either good as we see it or bad
- We will all have *“for such a time as this”*, moments like Esther in our lives
 - Times hard impossible decisions must be made
 - Times where God’s voice seems silent
 - Times when you feel so weak, frustrated, just desiring to run away and hide
 - Times where we see no way anything good can come out of it
 - Times where you are faced with the choice to let go and let God, whatever the outcome or turn your back to Him and like Moses, go to the backside of mountain
 - Times where must choose to walk forward for God’s glory alone

The Choice To Glorify God

- God does not choose to display His glory through burning bushes or fireworks in the sky; He chooses you!
 - Joni Eareckson Tada, “God deliberately chooses weak, suffering and unlikely candidates to get His work done, so that in the end, the glory goes to God and not to the person.”
 - How, this makes no sense to me?
 - **John 3:30 NIV**, “He (*Jesus*) must become greater; I must become less.”

The Choice To Glorify God

- It is the evening of Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion
 - For 3 ½ years Jesus has poured out His life to bring the glory of God into people's lives through healings, teachings, loving
 - Facing Him is a trial that is so drastic that He sweat drops like blood from anxiety, pressure, Satanic attacks during His prayer
 - What would He pray for, what was most important on Jesus' mind?

Scripture

- **John 17:1 NIV**, After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.”
- “After Jesus said this”
 - **John 16:11 NIV**, “The prince of this world now stands condemned.”
 - **John 16:27 NIV**, “The Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.”
 - **John 16:33 NIV**, “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart (*rejoice, be encouraged*)! I have (*already*) overcome (*everything*) the world (*can throw at you*).”

Jesus lifted up His eyes toward heaven

- **John 17:1 NIV**, After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.
 - Genuine prayer often reveals a person’s innermost being and **John 17** is a unique opportunity to see the nature and heart of Jesus
 - He lifted up His eyes and looked into the Father’s face, into His Father’s eyes, and into His Father’s love
 - Jesus looked up in a sense of hope and purpose, not gloomy or downcast
 - This is actually a prayer of faith and confidence, even victory – all the while acknowledging the reality of the conflict
 - It is uttered by One who has just affirmed that He has overcome the world (**John 16:33**), and it starts from this conviction

Jesus lifted up His eyes toward heaven

- **John 17:1 NIV**, After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.”
 - This prayer is made with a heart and mind looking up towards heaven
 - Jesus made no mention of His problems or the decisions He must make
 - His heart and mind were fixed on the absolute fulfillment of God the Father’s will no matter what the cost, so that eternal life could come to us
 - So is our supreme purpose, for our, “*such a time as this*” moments

Father, the hour has come

- **John 17:1 NIV**, After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.”
 - The hour has come for God’s will of providing a pathway for sin-stained mankind to be made clean
 - **Isaiah 1:18 NIV**, “Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.”
 - The time to fulfill the promise to Adam and Eve, Abraham, Moses, Israel through the Law has come

Father, the hour has come

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 - As Abraham says in **Genesis 22:6-8 NIV**, 6 Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, 7 Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?”
 - “Yes, my son?” Abraham replied. “The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” 8 Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.
 - God the Father and God the Son went on together to the cross

Father, the hour has come

- **John 17:1 NIV**, After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.”
 - God’s eternal will has come down to a single point in history
 - **1st Corinthians 1:25 NIV**, “For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.”
 - The foolishness of God sent His Son from the glories of heaven to a poor Jewish couple
 - The foolishness of God hid His Son for 30+ years
 - The foolishness of God announced the ministry of His Son by a backwater prophet with a single message, “Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand!”

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 - **1st Corinthians 1:25 NIV**, “For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.”
 - The weakness of God handed His Son over to sinful mankind
 - The weakness of God sent His Son to the cross placing upon Him the sin debt of mankind
 - The weakness of God buried Him in a borrowed tomb
 - The power of God brought His Son out of the tomb announcing that perfect peace is available between a Holy, Righteous God and sinful me and you

Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you

- **John 17:1 NIV**, After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:
“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.
 - Jesus was sent from the Father to bring the glory of God back on earth
 - The glory of God surrounded Adam and Eve until they sinned against God’s command
 - The glory of God faded from Moses’ face the longer was down from the mountain of God
 - The shekinah glory of God left the temple and the nation of Israel because of their sinfulness
 - **John 1:14 NIV**, “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you

- **John 17:1 NIV**, After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:
“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.
 - To men the cross appeared an instrument of shame and defeat but to Christ it was the means of true glory
 - Take the sinfulness of mankind and lay it on me for Your glory Father
 - Let the stripes in my back and the thorns on my head speak to Your glory Father
 - Let my last breath be for Your glory Father
 - And I will wait for the hallelujah of my resurrection and your ultimate glory Father

Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you

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“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.
 - The Son glorified the Father by revealing in this act, the cross, the sovereignty of God over evil, the compassion of God for men, and the finality of redemption for believers
 - No matter what you are going through, the decisions awaiting you, the pain, loneliness of life, God can receive glory through it as you choose like Jesus to trust Him with it

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 - Charles Spurgeon, “Christ’s motive should be ours. When you ask a blessing from God, ask it that you may glorify God by it. Do you pine to have your health back again? Be sure that you want to spend it for him. Do you desire temporal advancement? Desire it that you may promote his glory. Do you even long for growth in grace? Ask it only that you may glorify him.”
 - Whatever you ask, ask it for the glory of God

The Choice To Glorify God

- We find Paul and Silas in prison in **Acts 16**
 - **Vs. 23-24** tells us, “23 After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. 24 When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.”
 - **Vs. 25**, “About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.”
- We find God was glorified in the middle of their pain and suffering and He responding by sending a revival right in the middle of prison
 - God still works this way when He is glorified with our “*such a time as this*”



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