

# Why Did Jesus Come?

[John 17:1 - 5](#)

“To Glorify God”– December 18, 2022



## Introduction

The glory of God is invisible to the eye, so living to glorify God requires faith and patience. On the other hand, the glory of man is visible. Many will spend their life chasing for the glory of man. The evil one wants us to chase after it. If you catch it, you will realize that it doesn't satisfy or last.

The glory of man and the glory of God are at opposite ends of the spectrum. If we pursue the glory of man, we will ignore the glory of God. This battle has raged in every human heart since Genesis 3. Whose glory are you going to live for? To have true joy and contentment, we must live for the glory of God. To be set free from the glory of man, we must be captured by the glory of God.

Why did Jesus come? Why did He take on flesh? Jesus came to glorify God. He came to unveil a superior glory that breaks the bondage of self.

## Sermon Big Idea

We were created for glory, and Jesus came to glorify the Father to fill us with the joy of knowing Him.

## Read & Discuss

### Read John 17:1-5

Jesus begins His prayer with “the hour is come, glorify your Son.” The hour that He is referring to is His death and resurrection. The cross was a symbol of shame and embarrassment. It was reserved for the lowliest of the low. Jesus is asking God the Father to use this thing that was meant to humiliate to glorify Him. To glorify is to make visible the valuable, dignity and worth of something.

Jesus is praying this because, left to ourselves, we will not see the glory of the cross. How then is Jesus glorified on the cross? How does the cross unveil the truth about God and what He came to do?

In Exodus 33, Moses asks to see God's glory. God answers in [Exodus 34:6-7](#). What hope are we left with if God will not “clear the guilty?” That is what we see on the cross. It is a display of God's mercy and His justice. Jesus bears the righteous wrath of God for those who will trust in Him. Because of the cross, God can be gracious; He can forgive iniquity, transgressions and sins. If you are a Christian, the cross is not foolish or unimportant. It is glorious. This is evidence that Jesus prayer is answered. How do you see the cross of Jesus?

Why does Jesus pray to be glorified? He prays this so that the Father may be glorified. In times of doubt, we want God to show us and make it easier to believe. Jesus is how God has shown us. ([John 1:18](#)) To see Jesus in the pages of scripture is to see God.

The glory that He prays for in verse one, leads Him to verse two. Jesus is given authority over all flesh. There is nothing or no one who is outside of His sovereign control. The reason that this claim is astonishing is that in John 18, Jesus is handed over to the authorities. He is arrested, beaten, and crucified. It looks like Pilate and the Jewish leaders are in charge. However the whole time, even on the cross, Jesus is in charge. ([John 19:11](#)) Jesus doesn't ask for the easy way out. He exercises His authority by laying down His life so that He could give eternal life to those who would believe. He didn't owe us anything. The wages of our sin is death. ([Romans 6:23](#)). Jesus went to the cross because of love. As circumstances unfold in your life, do you recognize and remember that Jesus is in control of all things?

Those who receive eternal life are given to Jesus by the Father. If you are a Christian, you are a gift from God the Father to Jesus. How does He respond to the gift? ([Zephaniah 3:17](#)) He takes delight in us. What do you picture when you think of Heaven? What is eternal life? We think of it as the extension of time after this one. Eternal life is knowing God in a relationship that brings us true joy and lasting contentment. You don't have to wait till you die to experience eternal life. You can begin to experience it today. What are some things you are doing now or could implement in your life that would help you to know God better? The Gospel of John was

written so that we might know this glory. ([John 20:31](#)). It was written so that we might have eternal life - abundant life. ([John 3:16](#); [10:10](#))

Do you ever feel like you will get all the things on our to-do list done? It can be a challenge, but when Jesus came, He **did** finish what He came to do. In [John 19:30](#), before Jesus final breath, He utters, "It is finished." Nothing can be added. To receive eternal life, we must trust. That's it. Turning from false gods of money and success and turning to the one true God through Jesus. ([John 14:6](#)) Is there anything in your life right now that is keeping you from turning to God through Jesus?

We were created for glory. Christ came to glorify God. Some may assume that God's commitment to His glory is in how He views us - just a cog in the machine of His glory. But Jesus' prayer tells us the contrary. Jesus is looking at eternity past. Jesus has always existed. When He came to earth, He never ceased to be God. He laid aside His glory to come in the flesh so that He could die for us. When the work is finished, He is asking for His glory to be restored.

God didn't create us out of a sense of need. He was happy in Himself. God did not create the world to get joy, but to give infinite joy. ([John 17:13](#)) Jesus came to glorify God and to know the joy that He came to give.

Living for the praise of man is a deadly trap. ([Proverbs 29:25](#)) We can't see the glory of God if we are pursuing the glory of man. The only way to be set free is to see a superior glory. That is why Jesus came. The God who said, "Let there be light," is able to make you see it. Do you see something of the glory of God in John 17?

**Additional reading:** *Genesis 3; Exodus 33; John 18*

#### **Prayer of Response**

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to com. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

<b>Next week's sermon text:</b> we turn to <a href="#">1 Timothy 1:15</a> "To Save Sinners"
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