

**The Son's Anticipation**  
**John 17:1**

Our goal this morning is to understand verse one. This verse is the key to understanding the rest of the prayer.

**THE HOUR HAS COME**

**Meaning**

This hour was predetermined because in the Father's purposes, Jesus' death, resurrection, and return to heaven had been planned from eternity past. It was promised throughout the Old Testament. It was pictured in countless ways through the history of the Jewish people. It was prayed for by generations of Jews who longed for the Messiah to come and fulfill the promises.

Jesus says: "Mission accomplished" (v. 1, 4). Now does that surprise you, since He hasn't even died on the cross yet? How can He say "Mission accomplished"?

Maybe Jesus says "mission accomplished" because He was certain it would all be completed.

But even more important in this prayer, is that Jesus was particularly thinking of His mission to bring the word of God to His followers (vv. 6, 8).

When we reached John 16:33, we reached the end of the earthly teaching ministry of Jesus.

Jesus did what He had been sent to do John 4:34; 14:31. And the result was that the Father was glorified because Jesus finished the mission (John 17:4).

**Application**

The Father is glorified when we carry out the work that He has called us to do (Eph. 2:10; Matt. 5:16).

Just as the Father sent Jesus into the world, so Jesus has sent us into the world. The Father has called us to come follow Jesus and make disciples. To be and make disciples.

**GLORIFY YOUR SON**

**Meaning**

Jesus is praying for the Father to bring Him back to the glory of heaven (17:5).

That journey involved His arrest, trials, death, and resurrection, but His focus was on His return to heaven. That was the hour He was really anticipating.

For eternity past, Father and Son had been one (John 8:58; 10:30; 17:24). God the Son has been glorious forever. But for a time He set aside that glory to humble himself; to take on humanity.

Jesus came gladly, served eagerly, and gave His life willingly ... but He still couldn't wait to return to the glory of heaven.

And now on this night He sees that His mission is being completed, He knows it's time to go back home.

**Application**

1) Jesus' humility is a pattern for us to follow. If the eternal glorious God was willing to come live with the limitations of humanity, and to be despised and rejected of men; to be laughed at, slandered, spit on, and ultimately murdered after a sham trial. If that is what Jesus did, then there isn't any person, any situation that should be too low for us to serve? (Rom 12:16)



2) Jesus' exaltation gives us great joy. The Father put His full stamp of approval on the work of the Son. Jesus completely succeeded. Jesus is on the throne right now. If I am discouraged or guilty, frustrated, angry, or hurting, *My Jesus is on the throne right now*. If I am tempted, failing, or fearful *My Jesus is on the throne right now*. If I am trying to witness, disciple, teach, pray, *My Jesus is on the throne right now*. If I am weary from pain or parenting or difficult ministry, *My Jesus is on the throne right now*.

3) If Jesus couldn't wait to go back to be with the Father, we can be certain that heaven is better than we can imagine. Jesus would know. And He couldn't wait to go back. His anticipation for heaven gives us anticipation for heaven.

### **THAT THE SON MAY GLORIFY YOU**

#### **Meaning**

In verse 4 Jesus was talking about something He had done during His earthly ministry; but in verse 1 He was talking about something He would do in the future after his return to heaven.

There was a work that Jesus was completing and a work that Jesus was beginning. The work that Jesus will do is the work of giving eternal life (17:2).

Jesus was excited, He was eager for the day when He would return to heaven and begin a new work to glorify His Father by giving eternal life. Or we could say He is building His church.

#### **Application**

If you have repented and believed the gospel, you are one of the people that Jesus was excited about. Jesus couldn't wait to return to heaven because He knew that someday He would save you. He would glorify the Father by changing your life. He would give you eternal life.

Luke 15:7 refers to the joy in heaven over one sinner who repents. If Jesus has given you eternal life, the Father is celebrating. The Father and Son are rejoicing. The Father is being glorified, because the Son gave you eternal life.

#### **Summary**

Jesus is saying "Father, I've finished my job to glorify you here. Now bring me back home to my glory in heaven, so I can begin my next work to glorify you."

Now one final question this morning: why is most of this prayer about us?

If verses 1-5 are all about the glory of God, why is so much of the prayer about us? You probably already know the answer: it's because Jesus was going to glorify God through His followers.

Today Jesus gives eternal life as His followers bring His word to others in the power of the Spirit. Jesus is carrying out His work on earth not through His physical presence, but through His followers (John 14:12)

That's why He prayed that we might be kept from the world, kept from the evil one, sanctified in the truth: because Jesus is giving eternal life through His word through us.

Jesus was excited about you. He couldn't wait to get back to heaven and begin His new work, so that He could give eternal life to you and to others through you. But He was also concerned about you, that the world would weigh you down and pull you away, so that you wouldn't bear fruit to the glory of the Father. So He prayed for you to be kept, protected, and sanctified.

