

Life in Jesus Church

Sunday, November 21

Series: John...Jesus, Mission, & Glory

Sermon: **New Purpose: Sent to Show Christ's Glory**

Scripture: John 12:27-36

Introduction

The night before Jesus was arrested, He chose to give the disciples an intensive course in being sent out into the world. The last half of John 12 through John 17 is the largest body of teaching given to us by Jesus in the New Testament. His teaching prepared the twelve...and it should do the same for us. There is a theme that is repeated often in these last chapters of John..."The Glory of God" is mentioned often, and that is the focus of this message.

What is the Glory of God?

In this passage, Jesus says, "Glorify your name". Look at the word "glory". In the Old Testament, the word translated as glory means **weightiness**. The Greek word translated as glory in the New Testament means "**luminosity, brilliance and praiseworthiness**". So, to understand the true meaning of "The Glory of God", we need to see:

The supreme importance of God's glory. He must be the MOST important thing in our lives...the essence of your thinking in relationship, marriage...in everything! For many Christians, God is of SOME importance.

God's ultimate beauty. Many agree God is USEFUL...they want answers to their prayers...blessings...so they HAVE TO obey. But to obey because He is BEAUTIFUL, because He is satisfying in Himself...is different. You WANT to obey. And just knowing he is pleased with me is my happiness.

Not until God is seen as both beautiful and of supreme importance have you grasped the Glory of God. To see that glory is to obey him unconditionally and gladly. Story of Eric Little...olympic athlete and missionary in the 30's and 40's. When the Japanese invaded China...he felt God was telling him to stay with his friends. He stayed, but he died during the war in an internment camp. Eric could see God's Glory, and he knew that was important. His discipleship manual asked three questions. 1) *Are you ready to obey God even if you are laughed at or must endure some other hardship?* 2) *Are you willing to obey whatever the Bible clearly teaches whether you like it or not?* 3) *Will you trust God in anything he sends into your life whether you understand it or not...and do all of this gladly and joyfully?* Only if you understand the Glory of God can you answer yes to these questions.

Keller tells of a Movie..."Their Finest Hour". It's about a rescue in a storm in the North Atlantic. Why go? "It's the Coast Guard's job to go out there and rescue...it's not our job to survive." Once you grasp the Glory of God, you know it's your job to obey, not to survive...and because of his beauty and His supreme value, you do it gladly.

How can I grasp this, where can I find the Glory of God?

You might say, "I could never do those things!" Do I just need to pray and say "God zap me with your glory"... so my life can change? No...look where the Glory of God is most evident. Creation shows us God's glory, but it is "reflected beauty". Look instead at the cross to see the full blaze of the Glory of God directly. Jesus said, "I am troubled...should I ask for a way out?" No...Father, glorify your name".

On the cross, Jesus suffered the loss of the perfect love of his Father..they have known and loved each other for all eternity. But Jesus was about to experience total rejection...love ripped away...no God...no hope. Where is the glory in that? He did that for us! That's why Jesus says, "Now is the time for judgment" Judgement was coming down upon Him! Where is the glory in that? He did that for us! Jesus said, "It's my job to rescue them, not to survive". He gave up His infinite Glory for me...and that is GLORIOUS. Infinite beauty...beaten and hung on a cross...for me...that's the greatest beauty of all. And Jesus says..."When I am lifted up, I will draw all men unto myself." Focus on that beauty until it draws you and breaks over you!

How can I get the Glory of God into my life...so that it really changes me? This passage tells us...**first...don't waste your sorrow.** Jesus was troubled..."Should I say save me from this hour?" No. "Father, glorify your name." Glorify yourself in my troubles. Show me more of your glory...draw me into your glory! This is when the Glory of God becomes real.

Secondly, realize what God can make you! Jesus said, "Believe in the light that you may become children of light!" Grab onto God and His glory...and he will make you into something beautiful. Story of the beggar and the King. The King: "What are you willing to give me?" The beggar gave him 3 small grains of wheat: Later...after seeing the piece of pure gold the king left him for each grain...he lamented: "I wish I had given him everything!"

Give Him everything, and He will make you something great!

Prayer

Thank you Father for helping us get a little bit of a grip on your glory. Father, we want personal change...we want meaning in life...we want justice in the world... and yet, the key to all of those things is to seek your glory and to make you matter more than anything else in our lives. My we see your beauty...especially your beauty as you hung on the cross. Change us. Make us a people who live for your glory.

