

The King's Glory

John 12:20-43

Introduction

Glory is defined as praise, honor, high renown, and worship. This is what we saw earlier when we celebrated Christ's triumphal entry. The people were giving Him praise, honor, renown, and worship as He rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey's colt, showing He is a humble King of peace. Now, Jesus turns the common concept of glory on its head. We see that Jesus identifies His glory with the cross. Jesus redefines glory. Let's examine our **KING'S GLORY** on the cross.

His Soul Is Troubled (v. 27a)

Facing death

As Jesus contemplates His upcoming death, His soul is troubled. Anyone would have a troubled soul when facing their immanent death. Even a Christian, with no reason to fear death, would be troubled. He would think about his loved ones and how his death will affect them. He may be troubled by things left undone, not crossed off his "bucket list." Jesus' soul is troubled deeper than this. He is facing an excruciating death. He will be betrayed, denied, falsely convicted, mocked, humiliated, beaten, flogged, spat upon, and nailed to a cross.

Facing judgment

But Jesus isn't just facing physical death. He must face His Father while bearing all the sins of the world. Not to face Him in His mercy and lovingkindness, but to face Him in judgment. This is a fear we could never imagine and, because of Jesus, will never have to face. This is something that only Jesus could experience because He is the Son of God. When He cried out, "*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*" (**Mark 15:34**), Jesus was going through hell for us. His soul was troubled because of the damnation He was going to endure for you and me.

Glory to the Father (v. 27b-28)

Jesus says, "*For this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify Your name*" (**v. 27-28**). Jesus wants to give glory to the Father. He wants that more than anything. He is troubled about what He must endure but He finds His resolve to go through with it in His desire to do the will of the Father. By fulfilling His purpose, He will bring glory to the Father. The Father has been glorified in the Incarnation and the obedience of Jesus so far. An obedient child always brings glory to his parents. The Father will be glorified again when Jesus completes His mission, when He dies on the cross. This will be the ultimate obedience.

Glory from the Father (v. 43)

Jesus gives glory to the Father and what gives glory to God is what gives glory to us. When we give the Father glory by our obedience, He gives us His glory. And Jesus knows there are two kinds of glory—the glory given by man and the glory given by God. And the only one of these worth anything is the one from God. Man's praise and adulation is fleeting. On Sunday the people shouted "Hosanna" to

Jesus. On Friday they were shouting “Crucify Him!” They went from singing Jesus’ praise to calling for His death in five days. The glory that comes from man is worthless.

What His Glory Does (v. 31-32)

In **verses 31** and **32** we see a picture of what Christ’s glory accomplishes. Four things happen.

1. *Judgment on earth.* Judgment comes to the earth in two ways. First, it exposes the sin of humanity. Second, the Son is the representative of God’s rebellious subjects. As the guilty One in place of the guilty, He bears the judgment for us.
2. *The prince of this world is cast out.* What appears to the unenlightened as Satan’s greatest victory is really his worst defeat. By paying the price for sin, Jesus frees everyone from Satan’s clutches.
3. *Christ is lifted up.* The verb ‘lifted up’ has two meanings. On the one hand, it could mean glorify or exalt. But it was also a euphemism for crucifixion. The people showed that this is how they understood it as they were unable to accept a Messiah who would be ‘lifted up,’ that is, die on the cross. They were expecting a Messiah who would be a conquering king. What they didn’t realize is the Messiah’s kingdom is not of this world. As He is lifted up on the cross to die, He is lifted up to the world as our Savior.
4. *He will draw all people unto Himself.* Not only is He lifted up so all could see, but His arms are also open wide to accept all who come. As Athanasius said: *It is only on a cross that a man dies with his hands spread out. And so, it was fitting for the Lord to bear this also and to spread out His hands, that with one He might draw the ancient people and with the other those from the Gentiles and unite both in Himself.*

Our Glory

Today, we share in the King’s glory. He is glorified in Word and Sacrament. As we eat His body and drink His blood, we receive the faith to be able to follow Him in His glory, the glory of the cross.

*And the peace of God,
Which surpasses all understanding,
Will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*
