

Theme: The foremost concern in our prayers should be that God would be glorified and known.

I. Intro – What We Desire and Want Changed

- A. Mona Moon - seminar speaker - research quote
People want “professional and personal success; happiness; praise; recognition; respect; beauty; health; wealth; influence over other people and events; to conserve time, energy, and money; to avoid embarrassment and pain.” (quoted in Heitzig, *When God Prays*, 14).
- B. We will be offering all of this to each of you for just \$19.95 - today only.... just kidding
- C. That is quite a list of wants - and very me centered!
- D. James Patterson and Peter Kim - *The Day America Told the Truth: What People Really Believe About Everything That Really Matters* (1991).
- E. What would we change about ourselves if we could?
“How would they change themselves if they really could? How might they fulfill their potential as humans? And what Americans said: They would be thin and they would be rich.... Greed is okay, most Americans are saying, so long as it’s not fattening..... People across the country showed much less interest in changing their inner selves, including their intelligence or personality, than they did in changing their outward appearance.”
- F. Are these the concerns that should dominate our lives?
- G. Is this what should dominate our prayers?
- H. What did Jesus desire? What dominated His prayer?

II. Jesus’ Prime Concern - That God Be Glorified

- A. Jesus’ first request - God be glorified
After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. John 17:1
 - 1. Jesus does ask to be glorified - as the Son of God!
 - 2. The reason - that God might be glorified
- B. This concern runs throughout the whole prayer
After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you...⁴ I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began...¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them...²⁴ “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. John 17:1, 4–5, 10, 24
 - 1. Beginning, middle, and end of the prayer
 - 2. Only concern raised in every section of prayer
- C. Glory, glorify occurs 8 times in this prayer - key topic
 - 1. This is keynote of the prayer - rest fleshes this out
 - 2. This is Jesus’ concern - God be glorified
- D. How different this is than the concerns of most Americans
 - 1. Remember opening quotes and research
 - 2. Those are narcissistic - this is outward focused

3. Narcissism kills prayer; desire for God's glory fuels prayer
4. This is why catechism says we were created to glorify and enjoy God

III. Understanding the Glory of God

A. Jesus is NOT praying for God to get glory in His Being

1. God is fully glorious in His Being
2. Jesus points this out in His prayer
And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with **the glory I had with you before the world began.**
John 17:5
3. Jesus is praying for people to recognize God's glory - and revel in it!
I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one:... ²⁴ "Father, **I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me** because you loved me before the creation of the world. John 17:22, 24
 - a. God is glorified when we see & receive His glory
 - b. God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him - John Piper

B. God is glorified when people know Him

"Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³ Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. John 17:1-3

1. "For" (v2) - glory is related to Jesus' giving life

2. Glory and life come from knowing God (v3)
3. Knowing God is tied with knowing Christ (v3)
4. God is glorified when people turn to Christ!
5. Same concern at end of the prayer

I have **given them the glory that you gave me,** that they may be one as we are one: ²³ I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to **let the world know that you sent me** and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴ "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and **to see my glory, the glory you have given me** because you loved me before the creation of the world. ²⁵ "Righteous Father, **though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me.** ²⁶ **I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."** John 17:22-26

- a. Notice glory, knowledge throughout closing
- b. Also notice **love** - not just head knowledge - love
- c. God is glorified when people know and love Him
- d. We glorify God and enjoy Him - now and forever

C. God is glorified through His servants

"Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, **that your Son may glorify you... I have brought you glory on earth** by completing the work you gave me to do. John 17:1,4

1. Jesus brought glory to the Father

All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And **glory has come to me through them.** John 17:10

1. But disciples also bring glory to Jesus
2. We are to be like Jesus - bringing glory to God

D. God is glorified when we receive, believe & obey His word

have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have **obeyed your word**.⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you.⁸ For **I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.** John 17:6–8

1. Disciples receive word from Jesus - believe & obey
2. This is followed by v10 - they bring glory to Jesus
3. We glorify God by receiving, believing & obeying His Word

IV. Applying the Word

A. Is my focus the glory of God - or my own glory?

1. We live in a narcissistic age - generation ME!!!
2. Jesus' prayer cuts through this to focus on God
3. Is my chief desire to glorify God?
4. Have you received Jesus Christ? He is the only way to glorify God!
5. Questions to help me determine my focus:
 - a. What do I think about and want the most?
 - b. What do I spend most of my time in prayer for?
 - c. Where do I spend and invest my money?

d. Where do I spend and invest my time?

6. If my desire is not for God - begin by asking Him to make that my desire - "Let me see and savor Jesus & your glory"
7. Then begin to pray for others to do the same - that God might be glorified

B. Communion - Seeing and Savoring Jesus

1. At this Table we turn our eyes from self to Jesus
2. We turn from our dead works to Jesus
3. We also turn from seeking fulfillment anywhere but Jesus
4. Today, come, see and savor Jesus at His Table
5. Bernard of Clairvaux

Jesus, Thou Joy of loving hearts,
Thou Fount of life, Thou Light of men,
From the best bliss that earth imparts,
We turn unfilled to Thee again.

Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood;
Thou savest those that on Thee call;
To them that seek Thee Thou art good,
To them that find Thee all in all.

We taste Thee, O Thou living Bread,
And long to feast upon Thee still;
We drink of Thee, the Fountainhead,
And thirst our souls from Thee to fill.

Our restless spirits yearn for Thee,
Wherever our changeful lot is cast;
Glad when Thy gracious smile we see,
Blessed when our faith can hold Thee fast.

O Jesus, ever with us stay,
Make all our moments calm and bright;
Chase the dark night of sin away,
Shed over the world Thy holy light.

Praying For God To Be Glorified and Known

John 17:1-8
June 16, 2013
Communion
1 Timothy 1:17

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God,
be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Timothy
1:17

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prayed: “Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that
your Son may glorify you. ² For you granted him authority
over all people that he might give eternal life to all those
you have given him. ³ Now this is eternal life: that they
may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom
you have sent. ⁴ I have brought you glory on earth by
completing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father,
glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you
before the world began.

⁶ “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of
the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they
have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything
you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the
words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew
with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that
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