

THE RED LETTER LECTURES

LEARNING TO PRAY FROM THE WORDS OF JESUS

The Prayer of Jesus For Himself

I. **After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began."**
— Jn. 17:1-5

A. The Setting

1. Jesus is celebrating His last Passover meal with His disciples. *See Mt. 26:18-19.*
2. Why was Passover considered a "celebration"?
3. He is just hours away from his arrest, trial and crucifixion.
4. Judas has left the group to betray Him.

B. **He looked toward heaven and prayed . . .**

1. One of the most common positions in prayer was to look up. This action by Jesus could be a good example for us in prayer. *See also Jn. 11:41; Psm. 123:1.*

C. **Father, the time has come . . .**

1. Lit., "the hour has come."

NOTES

Prayer Quote: "The battle of prayer is against two things in the earthlies: wandering thoughts, and lack of intimacy with God's character as revealed in His word. Neither can be cured at once, but they can be cured by discipline."
— Oswald Chambers

Mt. 26:18-19: He replied, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.' " So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

Jn. 11:41: So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

Psm. 123:1-2: I lift up my eyes to you, to you whose throne is in heaven. As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid look to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he shows us his mercy.

2. Jesus referred to the Cross as His "time or hour." See Jn. 2:4, 7:30, 13:1.
3. Who chose the exact time of His death? See *1 Ptr. 1:20; Rom. 5:6*.
4. Who has chosen the exact time of our death? See *Psm. 139:16*.

D. ***Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you . . .***

1. Glorify literally means to recognize someone with honor, praise, invest with dignity.
2. Glorify means to give someone esteem by putting them in an honorable position.
3. Applies first and foremost to God. Also applies at some point to every believer. See *Rom. 8:30*.

E. ***Now this is eternal life: . . .***

1. What is eternal life?
 - a. Knowing the only true God. See *Jer. 9:23-24*
 - b. Knowing His Son.
2. How do we receive eternal life?
 - a. John 3:16.
 - b. John 5:24.
 - c. John 5:39.
 - d. John 6:40.
 - e. Rom. 5:21.

F. ***I have brought you glory . . .***

1. This is a completed action statement.

NOTES

Jn. 2:4: "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."

Jn. 7:30: At this they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his time had not yet come.

Jn. 13:1: It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.

1 Ptr. 1:20: He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

Rom. 5:6: You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

Psm. 139:16: . . . your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Rom. 8:30: And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Jer. 9:23-24: Thus says the LORD: " Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty *man* glory in his might, Nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches; But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I *am* the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD. (NKJV)

NOTES

F. *... completing the work you gave me to do.*

1. Mission complete!
2. How do we follow that example of Jesus?
See Eph. 2:8-10.

G. *Father, glorify me . . . with the glory I had with you . . .*

1. This reveals the preexistence of Christ and His deity.
2. The humiliation of Christ exchanged for the glorification of Christ.
3. Is that not what will happen to us?
See Jas. 4:10.

H. Paraphrase of John 17: 1-5, from *The Message*:

Jesus said these things. Then, raising his eyes in prayer, he said: Father, it's time. Display the bright splendor of your Son, so the Son in turn may show your bright splendor. You put him in charge of everything human. So he might give real and eternal life to all in his charge. And this is the real and eternal life: That they know you, the one and only true God, And Jesus Christ, whom you sent. I glorified you on earth, by completing down to the last detail what you assigned me to do. And now, Father, glorify me with your very own splendor, the very splendor I had in your presence before there was a world.

Eph. 2:8-10: For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Jas. 4:10: Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.