



John 17:24–26

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.’

Reflection

(Today’s reflection is given by Craig Tubman).

Today’s passage comes from John 17:24–26,

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you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.’

I was never much of a gift-giver. But these days I love putting together a range of presents for my wife in preparation for her birthday or at Christmas. I actually take joy in thinking about what to give her. And often it is a week or so between buying a present and actually giving it to her. On one occasion it was 2 months!

In that interim period I can tell her that I’ve got the presents sorted, she knows that it’s all done and they’re ready – we know the facts of the situation. But it doesn’t compare to actually giving the presents and sitting next to her as she unwraps them. The joy of the reveal is tangible.

This is the tone I pick up in the final section of Jesus prayer for his disciples in John 17.

‘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.’

Jesus has done all the work to secure us as brothers and sisters with him and children of God the Father. He has lived a perfect life, he will soon die as the ultimate sacrifice, he will defeat death and calls us now to follow him. It’s all been done – these are the facts of the situation. But it doesn’t compare to actually seeing Jesus as he really is – the Son of God, the reigning prince of this world, the King of God’s

kingdom in all his power and glory.

This, apparently, is what Jesus is looking forward to. The great reveal when you will get to see him as he really is. It hasn't happened yet, but it will and this prayer shows Jesus' excitement. Until reading this passage again this week, I don't think I had thought much about seeing Jesus as he really is. The hope and joy of being around his throne, of feasting at his table of being made whole, complete, without imperfection. But this is the great and real hope that Jesus has prepared for us. He is excited about it and it's an encouragement for you and I to be as well.

We then see Jesus' prayer conclude with a reminder and a promise. The reminder is that we can only ever know the God of

the universe through revelation. And the promise is that Jesus will continue to reveal the Father to us.

In the very opening chapter of John's gospel he declares:

‘No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in the closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.’

That's the problem with God isn't it? We can't see him. If he is indeed the creative power behind our whole existence then he is also a being beyond our comprehension. Sure, we can pick up clues about him from his creative work. We can have a sense of his majesty as we are made to

feel small under the night sky or sit on the edge of a canyon. But we'll never know God if we rely solely on our own observations and our own intellect. He is just too big.

Revelation is the only way. God must make himself known to us, and do so in a way that we may have a chance of understanding. This is Jesus. As C.S Lewis observed, in Jesus we have the Playwright scripting himself into the drama so that the characters may know him. But of course, if God is going to enter our world, bound by time and space, his presence will be limited. He is bound by all the humanly restrictions – time and geography.

And so this is the conclusion to Jesus' prayer,

‘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.’

Jesus considers his work an ongoing project. I take it this is a reference to his Spirit which he promised one chapter earlier, guiding us to a knowledge of Jesus and thus to a knowledge of his Father.

If you are a follower of Jesus, you are caught up in the very Godhead itself. Filled with the Spirit, united to the Son and friends with the Father. If nothing else today, be reminded of just how cosmic faith in Jesus really is!

Think & Pray

I don't know how this prayer from Jesus will speak into your own situation. Perhaps you need to be reminded that the best is yet to come and Jesus is excited about you seeing him as he really is and what he has prepared for you on that final day. Perhaps you need to be reminded that God has made himself known, as cosmic and weird as that statement is! That in Jesus you have every spiritual blessing and chance of knowing the heart and mind of God. Perhaps you need to be stumped by the reality that through Jesus in the power of his Spirit you are united with the Godhead.

I don't know what it is you need to hear today, but whatever it is hold on to the truth that God is speaking into your life today

through his word and let it shape you this day.

Why not pray to God? Share with him and praise him for his goodness.