



## **John 17:1–5**

17 After Jesus said this, he looked towards heaven and prayed: ‘Father, the hour 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 know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. 4 I have brought you glory on earth by finishing 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.

## **Reflection**

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

My text for today is John 17:1–5

17 After Jesus said this, he looked towards heaven and prayed:

‘Father, the hour 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 know you, the only true God,

and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. 4 I have brought you glory on earth by finishing 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.

I love the work of Peter Souza. You may never have heard of him, but he is a photo journalist and the former chief official White House Photographer for president Obama. His photos give you a glimpse into the man behind the title. Commenting on his upcoming book he remarked, 'There are pictures that certainly show him stressing in the Situation Room over major decisions, but also pictures of him interacting in fun moments with his girls'. There are a range of snapshots that cap-

ture moments of intimacy between the world's most powerful man and his family and friends that are beautiful.

That's what John gives us here at the start of chapter 17. A snapshot of intimacy between the Son of God and his Father.

Having shared so much with his disciples in that upper room, John records for us a prayer Jesus prays to his Father. And I hear the heart of this prayer as being one of relief and joy.

'I've done it!', 'I've completed the task you gave me to do'. 'I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do'.

'The hour has come, glorify me'.

I don't know if you ever think about Jesus this way – human. It is the mystery of the Son of God that he is fully God and fully man. Hebrews 4 says,

‘For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin’.

And today John gives us this very human snap shot of Jesus – Father I have done it! I have fulfilled my role as the Son of God.

I take it that means a whole host of things. That Jesus never gave into temptation. That he declared the Kingdom of God and lived it out in his miracles, his teaching and his generosity. Jesus did not cave under

the pressure of the religious leaders and now is his time of glory.

This reference to glory is, from our perspective, a bit of a mixed bag. For it involves the whole next stage of Jesus work – his crucifixion, his resurrection and his ascension back to his Father. I think we can understand the idea of glory associated with the final two, but with crucifixion? Strange though it may be to us, this is the glory of the Son of God. This is his ultimate task completed as the one who has all power, uses that power to die in our place and bear our sins upon himself.

This is the Jesus we worship and follow.

John's snapshot gives us another insight into Jesus' honest conversation with his

Father.

The Father has granted the Son authority to give eternal life to those the Father has given him. And what is this eternal life? In the words of Jesus, ‘that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent’.

There is relief and joy in this prayer from Jesus because he knows he has done everything needed to lead you and I back to God the Father – our creator and our God.

In Hebrews 4 just after the writer celebrates that we have one who can empathise with us, who was tempted in every way but was himself without sin, he writes these words, ‘Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so

that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.'

There are so many ways we toil and strain to find life. We may not consider it eternal life, but we may consider it our journey to find true life. So many things we place our hearts upon with the hope that we will find that sense of meaning and purpose.

Yet right here, Jesus celebrates with his Father precisely because the life that we so often strain to find has not only been located but it has also been given to us.

Jesus gives it.

Why? Because he is the one who has fully lived it and has bore the punishment for us falling short of it. He has done it all and



today he says trust in me, follow me, receive the gift I earned for you.

## **Think & Pray**

Take some time today to reflect upon the glorious and complete work of Jesus on your behalf. Rejoice with your heavenly Father that the Son completed his task. Repent from the idols you have given your heart to in the hope that they will bring you ultimate joy. And consider what it may mean for you today to put your trust fully in the one who has given you eternal life both now and forever.

Why not pray over these things approaching God with confidence and finding in him mercy and grace?