

John 17:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

Analysis

This prayer opens Christ's high priestly intercession, anticipating Hebrews 7:25 where He 'ever liveth to make intercession'. Lifting His eyes to heaven demonstrates intimacy with the Father and confidence in prayer's answer. 'The hour is come'—the third mention of His hour (2:4; 7:30; 8:20 said it hadn't come)—indicates the cross is imminent. He prays for His own glorification, not selfishly, but so the Father would be glorified through the completed work of redemption.

Historical Context

Jewish custom was to pray standing with eyes uplifted. This prayer occurred likely on the way to Gethsemane after the Last Supper. Ancient prayers were oral and public; John's record of this intimate prayer suggests either direct divine revelation or John's physical presence.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does Christ's prayer for His own glorification teach about proper ambition?
2. How does knowing Christ prayed this before His crucifixion affect your understanding of His willingness to suffer?

Interlinear Text

Ταῦτα ἔλαλησεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ ἐπῆρεν τὸν
These words spake G3588 Jesus also lifted up G3588
G5023 G2980 G2424 G2532 G1869

όφθαλμοὺς αὐτοῦ εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ εἶπεν Πάτερ
eyes G846 to G3588 heaven also said Father
G3788 G1519 G3772 G2532 G2036 G3962

ἔληλυθεν ἡ ὥρα· δοξάσῃ σου τὸν υἱὸς ἵνα καὶ ὁ
is come G3588 the hour G5610 glorify thy G3588 Son that also G3588
G2064 G1392 G4675 G5207 G2443 G2532

υἱὸς σου δοξάσῃ σέ
Son thy glorify thee
G5207 G4675 G1392 G4571

Additional Cross-References

John 12:23 (References Jesus): And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.

Acts 3:13 (References Jesus): The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.

John 7:39 (References Jesus): (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

1 Peter 1:21 (Parallel theme): Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

John 11:4 (References Jesus): When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

Psalms 123:1 (Parallel theme): Unto thee lift I up mine eyes, O thou that dwellest in the heavens.

Mark 14:41 (Parallel theme): And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: it is enough, the hour is come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

John 11:41 (References Jesus): Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.