

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	ἐλάλησεν	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	καὶ	ἐπῆρεν	τοὺς			
These words	spake	G3588	Jesus	also	lifted up	G3588			
G5023	G2980		G2424	G2532	G1869				
ὀφθαλμοὺς	αὐτοῦ	εἰς	τὸν	οὐρανὸν	καὶ	εἶπεν	Πάτερ		
eyes	G846	to	G3588	heaven	also	said	Father		
G3788		G1519		G3772	G2532	G2036	G3962		
ἐλήλυθεν	ἡ	ὥρα·	δοξάση	σου	τὸν	υἱὸς	ἵνα	καὶ	ὁ
is come	G3588	the hour	glorify	thy	G3588	Son	that	also	G3588
G2064		G5610	G1392	G4675		G5207	G2443	G2532	
υἱὸς	σου	δοξάση	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.