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The Gospel of John

20 February 2020

To Believe On Jesus

**Introduction:** When you were a small child did your mom and dad teach you a prayer before you went to sleep? It might have sounded something like this: Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray my soul the Lord to keep, If I should die before I wake, I pray my soul the Lord to take. God Bless Mom, Dad, brother, sister, grandma, grandpa, patches (the dog), etc…

When we were older we learned the Lords Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 and we continued in our prayer progression as we grew in the Lord and as we continued **to believe on Jesus** we became better at saying our prayers. We prayed for specific things and we prayed for more general things and we also, at some point began to pray whenever we need to pray, whether at work, in the car, or at home at night where we first learned how to pray when we were a child. But none of this praying would have and does not matter unless we continued **to believe on Jesus.**

Our text today will focus on “to believe on Jesus” and how this is connected to Jesus’s example of how He prayed to the Father and what He asked for in prayer to the Father. **Our thesis statement is “To Believe on Jesus is to believe in the Prayers of the Lord” in John 17:1-5.** Jesus is not teaching the disciples how to pray in this passage, he is teaching them what to pray and we as the readers get to see how Jesus the son prayed to the Father and that He prayed for us today.

1. The Hour has come “to believe on Jesus”

In verse 1 of John 17 the hour has come for Jesus. Earlier in John when Jesus mother, Mary came for him to make more wine at the wedding feast He told her that His hour had not yet come (John 2:4). Jesus tells us again in John 7:6 “My time is not yet here…” when He did not go to the feast of the Tabernacles. In John 7:30 and 8:20 He could not be arrested because “His hour had not yet come.”

The hour has finally come for Christ to glorify God so that he may be glorified, the hour has finally come for Him to suffer and the hour for his departure from this world has come. The hour that Satan has been waiting on has finally come, when it looks like Satan is going to be victorious what does Jesus do? He prays.

**Illustration:**  When we have worked so hard in a class and the hour has finally come to take that final examine we will not know the outcome or result of that examine unless we take it. If we have prepared, then we are confident, maybe still a little scared or concerned, but confident we have accomplished learning everything we needed to know for the examine to move forward toward our goal.

**Application:** We have to trust in God and have faith that when our hour arrives that we have done everything we have been commanded including being washed by the blood of the lamb to be with God in eternity.

II. The Hour has come “to believe on Jesus” so the Father will be glorified

Jesus knows that he has to suffer and die in order to complete the task that the Father has assigned Him. Yet, He lifted His eyes toward Heaven and prayed that the Father glorify Him so that the Father would be glorified. He did not run in the garden of Gethsemane and when Peter wanted to fight, He did not fight but was a living example of how we should respond in such instances to glorify the Father as He did and does through His living word. As Jesus is glorifying the Father he is unselfishly glorifying Himself as well because He is serving the Father as we see in John 13:31 when he received the morsel and Judas went to betray Him. In 17:1 when the scripture refers to Christ lifting up His eyes this connects with Him being lifted up on the cross, not for His own glory, but for the glory of the Father. Just as the snake was lifted up in the wilderness Christ was lifted up (John 3:14). Each time Christ seeks the glory of God it benefits us, God’s creation, so in turn when we glorify God through Christ Jesus and Jesus glorifies God by being the example of a servant we receive the good that we need. Jesus seeking the glory of God brought forth our salvation that was part of God’s plan before creation. All for the glory of God and our benefit through Christ Jesus. The ultimate benefit Jesus wants us to see is eternal life. In John 17:3, “This is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” This is it, this why we listen to the apostles who listened to Christ who listened to God. It’s a package deal, you have to have the faith in the plan of salvation that God the Father developed before creation. Knowing God is life and this is what Jeremiah tells us in 9:23-24. If we know the apostles through God’s word and we know Jesus Christ through God’s word then we know eternal life which is God!

Illustration: If we are part of an athletic team who has set a goal to when a championship but we do not whole heartedly practice hard and smart and improve over time but we never miss a practice we may do pretty well but we may not win the championship. If we go beyond what is required of us because we live to compete and even when there are no practices scheduled, we are working on our game then we have just drastically increased our chances to not only win and make the playoffs but to win the ultimate goal of winning the championship.

Application: The Bible tells us that we are to meet on the first day of the week. Our elders have also set up other times for us to meet and encourage and edify each other and even though the Bible did not bind us to Sunday night and Wednesday night and other Bible studies during the week, how much do we love God, how much do we love life, are we as Christians going to settle for just being in the room or are we studying and living a Christ-like life like the Bereans did and moving across the floor toward Christ because we love life, which in turn means we love God and He knows because He’s living in us. Sanctification daily through prayer and servitude.

**III. The Hour has come “To Believe on Jesus” to live a Life That Glorifies God**

When Christ did the work His Father wanted Him to accomplish on earth, He glorified Him. This is the example that Christ left for us, by serving God selflessly we are glorifying God because we love life and we love God eternally. This is why we turn the other cheek, why we live selflessly, why we love our enemies. We are lights on a hill. A life lived for God is life that sacrifices self for the sake of others even when they are our enemies. In John 17:5 we read “Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself with the glory I had with You before the world was.”

**Illustration:** If I wanted a group of special forces military personal to be able to accomplish a certain task that I was the best in the world at then I would train this group knowing that if they needed me after the training was accomplished I would be there for them in spirit but not in the flesh. I would leave behind my training manual though so they could study it and remain proficient at it to keep themselves sharp and productive.

**Application:** If we want to be the best servants we can be then we have to constantly go to the manual which would include reading it, studying it, and the practical application would be living it which would critically include prayer.

**Conclusion:** Jesus showed us how to live and prayer is a big part of that but he also showed us how to serve and have faith in the system of salvation God the Father set up for us to receive eternal life.