

John 17 – The Greatest Prayer. (8) Christ Jesus glorified in his Apostles. (refs for Bible study 25/1/18).

Does your life glorify Jesus Christ? In the central section of his prayer, v6-19, Jesus prays for his disciples. We hear a startling statement about the men soon to be designated Apostles: *“I am glorified in them” v10.*

**Lessons for our praying:**

Though this is not a ‘model prayer’ (see Mt.6 for that), there are lessons for our praying:

- In all our praying the glory of Jesus Christ should be our greatest aim. Worship & thanks should be prominent. And as we pray for the preaching, our outreach work, the sick, ourselves – let the glory of Jesus be our goal!
- Notice that Jesus varies the address he uses: *‘Father’, ‘Holy Father’, ‘Righteous Father’*. Variety and flexibility. (Also Mt.26v39, Mk.14v36, Lk.22v42.) How easy we find it to become mechanical when we address God!

**Christ glorified in them:**

v6-11a: the grounds on which Jesus’ prayer is based. He’s praying for them in particular, not everyone else. They’re chosen to be Apostles, have a mission v18, unique place in the spread of the gospel. He’s about to leave them v11. Look at these verses in the light of *“I am glorified in them”*. Tense: *“I have been and still am glorified in them.”*

- **unpromising material:** v6 *‘I have manifested your name’* i.e. I have revealed you to them, 1v18, 14v9. *‘you gave them to me’* is of course true of all the elect, but particularly applies to these 11 men, soon to be 12 again, and eventually 12+1. But at look them! Ordinary, largely uneducated, fishermen, tax-collector, etc. Yet hand-picked by God! Look what God does with them! That’s what brings glory to him, Ac.4v13.
  - Same applies to us – we are unpromising material. He gets glory by what he can do with & through us.
- **keeping his word:** v6 *‘they have kept your word’*, to watch over, guard, keep. Tense: *‘have kept and are still keeping’*. Despite 6v66-69, despite the ‘wobbles’, amazingly here they still are! Keeping his word is key.
  - Do you want Jesus to be glorified in you? Keeping his word brings glory to him. Gospel words 15v3, words of encouragement 15v7-8, words of command 15v10,14.
- **receiving his word:** v7 at last they seem to be ‘getting it’. v8 they’ve received Jesus’ words for 3 years. v9 these are the ones Jesus is praying for right now, not for so-called important ones of the world. The world’s values are all wrong. The Apostles are important, Eph.2v20-21. This underpins our NT. Great promise of 16v13-14. An amazing, authoritative book – which magnifies Jesus Christ!
  - Christ Jesus was glorified in the lives of ordinary men whom he chose and transformed, and though we are not called to be Apostles he is glorified in us too.