

## GIVE GOD THE GLORY

(John 17:1-11)

Intro: Look what I brought along this morning.

- I have trophies.
  - #Swimming.
  - #Basketball.
  - #Safety patrol.
  - #Track.
  - #Scholar athlete.
- I have a high school letter.
  - #With lots of gold medals.
    - \*Cross country.
    - \*Track.
    - \*Captain.
    - \*MVP.
- I have a plaque.
  - #From St. Louis County Department of Justice Services.
  - #For 28 years of dedicated service.

They are all signs of glory.

- Mostly fading glory.
  - #Accomplishments.
    - \*Years gone by.
      - +Many years gone by.
    - \*Significant, probably, to no one but me.
- Today.
  - #Collect dust.
  - #Hang on a wall.
  - #Packed away in a closet.

I have more signs of glory.

- Not so personal.
  - #T-Shirts.
  - #Sweatshirts.
  - #Drinking mugs.
    - \*Rose Bowl champions.
      - +Wisconsin Badgers.
    - \*Super Bowl champions.
      - +St. Louis Rams.
    - \*World Series champions.
      - +St. Louis Cardinals.

In our Gospel lesson.

-Jesus was looking for glory.

#"Father, the hour has come."

#"Glorify your Son."

\*John 17:1.

-But Jesus also knew.

#Glory belongs to God.

\*"Glorify the Son so that that the Son may glorify you."

+John 17:1

#Give God the glory.

## I. We Live In A Culture That Strives For Glory.

### A. Sports World.

#### 1. Sports teams.

##### a. Wanting to win:

-Rose Bowl.

-Super Bowl.

-World Series.

##### b. All wanting to be #1.

#### 2. Individual athletes.

##### a. Wanting to win:

-Letter.

-Ribbon.

-Gold medal.

-Trophy.

-Ring.

-Green jacket.

##### b. All wanting to be #1.

-Sometimes resorting to performance-enhancing drugs.

#To become:

\*Fastest.

\*Strongest.

\*Best.

#### 3. Even horses.

##### a. Kentucky Derby.

##### b. Triple Crown.

-Running for:

#Roses.

#Glory.

\*For themselves.

\*For their owners.

B. Business World Is Not So Different.

1. There is competition:
  - a. Make the most beer.
  - b. Sell the most cars.
  - c. Serve the most hamburgers.
  - d. Have the fastest computer.
  - e. Have the biggest roller coaster.
2. Thomas Alva Edison.
  - a. Great inventor.
  - b. Had over 1000 patents.
    - Light bulb.
    - Phonograph.
    - Movie camera.
  - c. At one time employed over 10,000 people.
  - d. If you visit West Orange, New Jersey.
    - As my boys and I did several years ago.
    - Town that grew up around:
      - \*Labs.
      - \*Factories.
        - +Of one man.
        - =Thomas Edison.
    - All that is left today.
      - \*Few buildings.
        - +Owned by the National Park Service.
        - +Operated as a museum.
      - \*All the rest is gone.
        - +Sold off.
        - +Out of business.
        - +Torn down.
    - What happened to it all?
      - \*Edison was never able to give up control.
        - +To interest his children in the business.
        - +To train a protégé to take over.
      - \*Despite all of his employees.
        - +Edison's enterprises were a one-man show.
        - +He wanted all of the glory for himself.

C. Sometimes It Even Happens In the Church.

1. Several years ago.
  - a. I preached at the congregation in Wisconsin.
    - Where I grew up.
  - b. It must have been a pretty good sermon.
    - I got a lot of compliments afterwards.

2. One of the members.
  - a. Who had known me from the time I was a boy.
    - Of 9 or 10.
  - b. Said to me after the service:
    - “That was a great sermon.”
    - “You really ought to have a preaching ministry somewhere.”
3. I said to him:
  - a. “What are you talking about?”
  - b. “I do have a preaching ministry.”
  - c. “I preach at the hospital and the jail all the time.”
4. He said:
  - a. “Well, you know what I mean.”
  - b. “A real preaching ministry.”
5. Apparently for him.
  - a. There was not enough glory.
    - In being a chaplain.
    - #Hospital.
    - #Jail.
  - b. So to his way of thinking:
    - These must be my glory days.
    - Here I am in all of my glory.

## II. Jesus Was Looking For Glory.

- A. True Glory Comes From God.
  1. Jesus knew that.
    - a. “Father, the hour has come.”
    - b. “Glorify your Son.”
      - John 17:1.
    - c. Who else could do it?
  2. Glory belongs to God.
    - a. Glory is not simply something we achieve.
      - In sports.
      - In business.
      - In the church.
    - b. Our glory fades and dies.
      - Champions get dethroned.
      - Trophies collect dust.
      - Businesses go out of business.
      - Sermons get forgotten.
    - c. True glory comes from God.

B. True Glory Goes Back To God.

1. Jesus knew that.
  - a. "I glorified you on earth."
  - b. "By finishing the work that you gave me to do."  
-John 17:4.
2. Gospel of John is sometimes divided into two parts.
  - a. Book of Signs.  
-John 1-12.  
#Addressed to all.  
#Inviting faith.  
-Jesus' miracles.  
#From turning water into wine.  
\*Wedding at Cana.  
+John 2:1-12.  
#To raising Lazarus from the dead.  
\*John 11.
  - b. Book of Glory.  
-John 13-21.  
#Addressed to believers.  
# Jesus is glorified in his "hour."
  - c. The two halves are connected.  
-Jesus gave glory to the Heavenly Father.  
#By doing the signs and wonders.  
#By completing the work the Father gave him to do.  
-Because Jesus completed his work on earth.  
#He is ready to receive his share of the glory.  
\*Or should we say?  
-He is ready to receive it back.

C. Jesus Wanted His Glory Back.

1. Jesus had had glory once before.
  - a. In the beginning.
  - b. Before the world was created.  
-John 17:5.
2. But he had given it all up.
  - a. To come into the world.
  - b. To be born in human form.
  - c. To bring eternal life.  
-By making the Father known.  
-By making himself known.  
#More than an academic exercise.  
\*"I'd like to introduce myself to you."  
+"My name is Jesus."  
\*"I'd like to tell you about the Father."

- #About relationship.
  - \*As Adam knew Eve.
    - +Genesis 4: 1.
  - \*We come to know God.
    - +Not physically.
    - +Not sexually.
    - +But to have a faithful, loving relationship.
- “This is eternal life.”
  - #“To know you, the only true God,”
  - #“And Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”
  - \*John 17: 3.
- Jesus has done that.
  - #Jesus has given God the glory.
- 3. Now Jesus wants his glory back.
  - a. “Mission accomplished.”
  - b. “I’m done here.”
  - c. “Can I come home now?”
  - d. “My hour has come.”
- 4. Jesus got his wish.
  - a. Jesus got to go home in glory.
    - But we may not consider the road home so glorious.
  - b. For the past few weeks.
    - I have been telling you.
    - #In John’s Gospel.
    - #Jesus’ glorification involves:
      - \*Suffering.
      - \*Death.
      - \*Resurrection.
      - \*Ascension.
  - c. Today’s Gospel.
    - We read it:
      - #After Easter.
      - #After Ascension Day.
    - But Jesus’ prayer.
      - #What is sometimes called Jesus’ High Priestly Prayer.
      - #When he asks to be glorified.
      - #When he asks that his disciples:
        - \*Might be kept:
          - +Safe.
          - +United.
            - =No more competition.
            - =No more #1.
      - #When he announces that his hour has come.
        - \*Occurs before the end.

- Look at the sequence.
  - #John 17.
    - \*Jesus' prays for:
      - +His disciples.
      - +Himself.
    - =To be glorified.
  - #John 18.
    - \*Jesus is arrested.
  - #John 19.
    - \*Jesus is condemned to death.
    - \*Jesus is crucified.
  - #John 20.
    - \*Jesus is raised from the dead.
- d. All of this.
- Part of Jesus' glorification.

### III. Do You Still Want Glory?

- A. I Certainly Hope So.
1. Glory belongs to God.
  2. If you watch St. Louis Cardinals baseball.
    - a. As I do.
    - b. Maybe you've noticed Albert Pujols.
      - Every time he gets a hit.
      - #He taps his heart.
      - #He points his finger to the heavens.
      - He gives God the glory.
      - #Glory belongs to God.
  3. If you:
    - a. Have any accomplishments.
    - b. Reach any milestones.
    - c. Receive any awards.
      - Give God the glory.
      - #Glory belongs to God.
  4. For us to have glory means:
    - a. We belong to God.
      - Relationship of faith.
    - b. We will be home with God in glory.

B. Journey Home Can Be A Bumpy One.

1. It has its downs.

- a. Leaky roofs.
- b. Broken relationships
- c. Sickness.
- d. Death.

-Way home.

#Way of the cross.

#Way of death.

\*For Jesus.

\*For us.

2. It has its ups.

- a. Splashing through the waters of Holy Baptism.

-Cleansed of our sin.

-Washed into a loving relationship.

#Father.

#Son.

#Holy Spirit.

\*Give God the glory.

- b. Feasting at the table of the Lord.

-Nourished for our ministry.

#Welcome.

#Worship.

#Grow.

#Witness.

#Serve.

-Foretaste of the feast to come.

#Give God the glory.

- c. Hearing stories of home.

-On the way home.

#Give God the glory.

Concl: Glory!  
Glory!  
Glory!  
Hallelujah!

