



## CELL GUIDE

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TOPIC	The Hour Has Come: A Study of John 17	SPEAKER	Elder DSP Chua Seng Lee
THEME	Relational Evangelism & Strategic Prayers	DATE	23 & 24 March 2019

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

Jesus' prayer in John 17:1 says: *The Hour has come!* Are we excited about John 17? We should be, because this prayer of Jesus is our future – it is a trigger for the greatest event of all time. Specifically, this prayer reveals to us Jesus' heart in his final moments. Through this prayer, we are shown how much God loves us and we will be blessed if we align ourselves to this prayer.

## JOHN 17:1-5 (THE HOUR HAS COME)

### A. OVERVIEW/CONTEXT OF JOHN 17

- ♥ Jesus' prayer in John 17 is unique because it is found only in the Gospel of John. Jesus prayed this prayer to His Father in the Garden of Gethsemane, right before His betrayal and crucifixion.
- ♥ In John 17, Jesus prayed for Himself (v1-5), His disciples (v6-19) and His future disciples (v20-26).
- ♥ This week, the focus is on v1-5 where Jesus prayed for himself – the Hour has come.

### B. CENTRAL THEME: Glory of God – to be glorified.

### C. UNPACKING JOHN 17:1-5 – KEY POINTS

- ♥ In his prayer, Jesus lifted His eyes up to Heaven (**Posture**), calls on His Father (**Person**) for the hour has come to initiate the Father's will (**Priority**) and asked God to glorify Him (**Petition**) so that Jesus may glorify God (**Purpose**).
- ♥ We need to adopt the same posture as Jesus did in prayer.
- ♥ Jesus prays that the glory will be restored back to Him (v5). Why does Jesus pray for this? What is this glory of God?
  - In the Old Testament, the glory of God talks about the goodness of God (Exo 33). Jn 1:14 refers to the glory as God as full of grace and truth. The ultimate expression of the glory of God and the fullness of the goodness and grace of God is expressed at Calvary, where the cross reflects God's glory.
- ♥ How does Jesus glorify God the Father?
  - He died on the cross (v4).  
Jesus warned the Church and his disciples of his impending death to prepare them and mentioned that the Son of Man (Jesus) is glorified only through His death, and that death is necessary before we see life (Jn 12:23-25).
  - By giving eternal life to all who belonged to God.  
Eternal life is about knowing God (v3). Knowing God is not just knowing about God (cognitive faith) – the emphasis is on having an interpersonal relationship with God where we have a direct personal experience (experiential faith).

## IMPLICATION OF JESUS' PRAYER IN JN 17:1-5 FOR US

### A. KEY MESSAGE

- ♥ **We follow Jesus by making “glorifying God” our priority!**
- ♥ In John 12:26, Jesus reminds us that if we serve Him, we must follow Him. A true follower's central motivation should be the glory of God and we should be as how the early disciples were: that in all we do, whether eating or drinking, do it all for the glory of God (1 Cor 10:31).

### B. HOW DO WE BRING GLORY TO GOD?

- ♥ Die to self
  - We are to glorify God, just as how Jesus glorified God (John 17 v1).
  - We are to accomplish our purpose in places He has placed us in, and in the work He has given us (v4).
  - We are to die to our carnal nature (give up our own selfish desires and preferences).
- ♥ Direct others to God
  - This is so that God may give them eternal life (v2) and that they may know the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom God has sent (v3).
  - Just as Andrew brought Peter to Jesus (Jn 1:42), we need to direct others to Christ. Only God can give eternal life. Our role is to bring people to God so that they may encounter Jesus.
  - How can we be an effective Andrew?
    - By building genuine relationships (Bless, Build, Bear, Broadcast), bring them to events to encounter God (Alpha Course, cell events, Celebration of Hope) and share our testimonies with them.
    - Pray, engage AND gather (Pray daily for family and cell group members etc. by name, including strategic prayers for oikos; Share Christ by bringing at least one person to the Lord each year / bring at least one person to BBTC each year)
- ♥ God is glorified when we die to ourselves in order to direct others to God.

## CONCLUSION

We should pray as Billy Graham did - *“Now is the hour. Each of us has the responsibility. I am praying that we will all be faithful in the assigned place God has put us.”* We should identify the areas in our lives that we need to die to, in order to direct people to Jesus and to glorify our God Most High.

# QUESTIONS

1. We must follow Jesus by making “glorifying God” our priority. What are some ways you have sought to glorify God in your current life stage?

2. In order for us to follow Jesus and glorify him, we need to die to our carnal nature, i.e. die to self. What is a habit or lifestyle choice that you can cut back on or give up to bring you one step closer to achieving this? Share with another member and encourage each other through prayer.

3. We are called to be effective Andrews and glorify God by directing people to Jesus so that they may also enjoy eternal life. By engaging the 4 Bs (bless, build, bear and broadcast), what is one change you can incorporate into your regular routine to start directing a person in your oikos list to Jesus?