

A Theology of Glory

Gospel of John, Part XLVIII

John 13:31-35

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I. Behold His Glory! (cf. Jn 1:14; 13:3)

II. Farewell Discourses

A. First Discourse, 13:31-14:31

B. Second Discourse, 15:1-16:33

C. Concluding Prayer, 17:1-26

III. Preparing the Disciples for His Departure

A. The Son of Man's Glorification (cf. Is 40:5; Jn 17:1-5)

The prophet Isaiah had announced, "*The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together...*" (40:5a). This promise is now reaching its fruition. The Son sees to it that the Father is glorified, and the Father sees to it that the Son is glorified.

They share glory one with another (cf. 17:1-5):

"Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him... I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was."

B. The Son of Man's Departure

C. The Son of Man's Disciples

IV. A Theology of Glory

A. The Meaning of Glory (cf. Ps 8:1; 24:7-10; 29:9)

The Dictionary of Biblical Imagery endeavors to explain glory as follows:

Glory includes splendor, beauty, magnificence, radiance, and rapture... The glory of God is an image of his greatness and transcendence... To encounter the glory of God is always awe inspiring and numinous... Glory is an image of divine transcendence as it makes itself visible to people. It combines awe and terror, and it simultaneously invites approach and distance... Both sacred and dangerous, glory inspires awe, fear and respect on the part of beholders. (330)

- I. Prologue: The Identity of the Son of God (1:1-18)
- II. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Public Ministry (1:19-12:50)
 - A. The Son of God Revealed (1:19-4:54)
 - B. The Son of God Rejected (5:1-12:36)
 - C. Conclusion (12:37-50)
- III. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Passion and Resurrection (13:1-20:31)
 - A. Introduction: He knew His hour had come (13:1)
 - B. Jesus Prepares the Disciples for His Departure (13:2-17:26)
 - C. Jesus Departs this world to the Father (18:1-20:29)
 - D. Conclusion: Purpose of the Gospel (20:30-31)
- IV. Epilogue: The Future Mission of the Son of God (21)

B. The Character of Glory

1. Glory inspires awe and wonder (Gal 6:14; 1 Cor 1:22ff; Rev 5:1ff)

Glory attracts attention and praise, inspires awe and wonder in those who behold it. Glory is connected to what is sublime, transcendent, miraculous. The cross, the deepest moment of our Lord Jesus' _____, is yet still the most profound display of His awesome and sublime glory. So, Paul tells us, "*God forbid that I should glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...*" (Gal 6:14).

2. Glory can be imparted to others (16:14-15; 17:22; 2 Cor 3:18)

The Father and the Son share glory, they impart glory one to another. The Spirit shares in this giving and receiving of glory. "*He will glorify Me [Jesus], for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you*" (16:14-15). The Triune God is glorious, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit sharing _____ with one another.

The glorious God imparts _____ to His creations. There is a dangerous notion out there that if God is to have glory, then no one else can have glory.

"If God alone is all-glorious, [so it is said,] then no one else is glorious at all. No exaltation may be admitted for any other creature, since this would endanger the exclusive prerogative of God. But this is to imagine a paltry court. What king surrounds himself with warped, dwarfish, worthless creatures? The more glorious the king, the more glorious are the titles and honors he bestows. The plumes, cockades, coronets, diadems, mantles, and rosettes that deck his retinue testify to one thing alone, his own majesty and munificence. He is a very great king to have figures of such immense dignity in his train, or even better, to have raised them to such dignity. These great lords and ladies, mantled and crowned with the highest possible honor and rank are, precisely, his vassals. This glittering array is his court! All glory to him, and in him, glory and honor to these others." Thomas Howard

God willingly imparts glory to others because the Persons of the Trinity by nature give glory to one another. So Jesus declares in John 17:22, "*And the _____ which You [Father] gave Me I have given them...*" Those who share God's glory *increasingly reflect the character, the glory, of our God*. Paul writes, "*But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the _____ of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord*" (2 Cor 3:18).

3. Glory fuels worship (Ps 24:7-10; 90:16-17)

We worship God not because God *needs glory* but because God *is glorious*. His glory draws us in like a moth to a flame. We beseech God to be present in our worship because He is glorious, and we need Him to share His glory with us. *Worship is not first and foremost us giving _____ to God; it is first and foremost us receiving _____ from Him* (cf. Ps 90:16-17).

V. Conclusion