

## **Blessed to Be a Blessing – March 6, 2011**

### **The Glory of God**

**But Jesus answered them saying, “The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.” John 13:23 NKJV**

These words of Jesus come after His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The Apostle John records them in His Gospel and they are a powerful contrast to worldly opinions concerning the glory of God. John, along with his brother James, and Peter were the “inner circle” of three, whom Christ Jesus took with Him up onto the Mount of Transfiguration. They saw with their own eyes the very majesty and heavenly glory of the Lord Jesus as He truly was, a majesty and glory which He had kept hidden from the world as the Apostle Paul eventually would describe our Lord to the Philippians as: One “who being found in fashion as a man”. They saw Him conferring with Moses and Elijah about the coming events—His exodus from this world. Awestruck by the sight they groped for the proper response...monuments to the three! That’s the ticket.

But Jesus will have none of this reveling in earthly glory. Although this worship and much more is due to Him by divine right, He will teach them about the true glory of God commanding them to tell no man about what they had seen until He had risen from the dead. His true glory is defined by human rejection. His portrait of victory is His bloody and lifeless corpse hanging on the tree of the cross. That is the hour of God’s highest glory; the moment of His undeniable triumph. Strange as it may seem to contrast this picture with that of the Transfiguration, nevertheless, Christ Himself proclaims His suffering and death to be His true glory. Why, you might ask? Simply because Christ emptied Himself of all that was truly His and died in our place that He might save us from our sins. That is God’s true glory...that He saved sinners from the eternal wrath of hell and for His own name’s sake gives us the gift of everlasting life.

How then can we best glorify our God? We can best glorify Him by spreading the story of what He has done! As we throw ourselves at the foot of the cross and wholly depend on His saving mercy, by our witness of

faith in Him alone we are telling the Good News of Jesus Christ to others. John, James, and Peter were no longer silent. In word and deed they were about the business of glorifying their Savior, telling whomever they met of His death and resurrection, so that other sinners may come to know Him also as the only Savior from sin!

How has God demonstrated His glory in your life? You might be tempted to try and list all the wonderful blessings He has given you...but before you begin to do so remember the words of Jesus. He was lifted up on Calvary's cross for you! That's how He demonstrated His glory in your life and to the rest of the world. Shall we not follow the example of the disciples then? Tell someone about Jesus!

Pastor Jacobs

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