



Sunday, August 23, 2009: The High Priestly Prayer

Scripture: John 17:1-26

Speaker: Scott Masson

Sermon Notes:

1. John 13:30 helps us to understand the high priestly prayer. The phrase "It was night" foreshadows the fact that Jesus' earthly ministry was about to come to a horrific end.
2. Jesus, the Light of the world, was about to die.
3. We tend to lose the sense of horror at this point in the gospel narrative where Jesus is utterly forsaken by God the Father as He bore the wrath of God against our sins.
4. Jesus stands to pray. Prayer is the highest of human acts, as creatures are granted the privilege to commune with God.
5. John 17:1,4. This prayer reveals that the relationship between the Father and Son is like marriage in that it is characterized by reciprocating actions.
6. There is a progressing theme of glory in John's gospel. It reaches a peak in John 17. See verses 1, 5, 10b, 22, 24.
7. Glory, a divine attribute, has 2 connotations: the Lord is in Himself glorious; He deserves our glory.
8. The pagan Roman world believed that the good things done in this life would be honoured in eternity.
9. Whether the vision is politically left or right, the modern worldview of glory is false.
10. In contrast to the world's man-worshipping "glory", John shows us a new category of glory reflected in the cross.
11. John uniquely connects Jesus' suffering with glory. The cross is not the condition of glory. The Cross is God's glory.
12. In giving the Father glory, Jesus reveals the nature of the Father's glory.
13. John 17:5 The Glory of the Father and Son consists in the reciprocating action seen here. See also John 8:54.
14. John 17:6. The communication of God's name is provided to the community of disciples.
15. Receiving the name of God is a necessary prerequisite to fulfilling God's mission of salvation. Moses is an archetype, as seen throughout John's gospel.
16. Along with a name is a character and an action. God named Himself to Moses as I AM, the self-existing one. Jesus' name means "God saves."
17. Isaiah 45:23. Every knee will bow. See also Phil 2:10-11.
18. John 17:9. Only those granted by the Father belong to Jesus.
19. John 17:19. Jesus is both the victim and the priest so He is able to consecrate Himself.
20. There's no participation in the body without sharing suffering.
21. Church unity is essential as we join in truth and consecration with other believers.
22. We're being transformed from one degree of glory to another.

Application Questions:

1. Can we enjoy the life and fullness of a child of God if we are not regularly communing with God in prayer?
2. Revelation 5:6 suggests the ongoing nature of Jesus' suffering. How can this knowledge encourage us when we suffer in the Christian life?
3. What are the reciprocating actions between the Father and the Son that are revealed in John 17?
4. How is the Lord Jesus glorified in the action of the great commission? See Matthew 28:18-20.
5. What implications for our lives can be deduced from Jesus' petitions for His disciples? See John 17:11-20.