**More Like the Master**

In His Glorification

Lesson 25

*“I glorified thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which thou hast given me to do. And now, Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was”*

(John 17:4-5)

**Give Glory to God**

 To give glory to someone is to honor them and to praise them. We live in a world where many people glorify themselves or they will praise some superstar like an athlete, singer, actor, etc. But, they will not give glory to God. Like the Jews of Jesus day, many today still love the glory that is of men rather than the glory of God (John 5:41, 44; 12:43). These people like to be seen and they like to bring attention to themselves *“that they may have glory of men”* (Matthew 6:2). Many people today also glory *“in their shame”* (Philippians 3:19) and dare anyone to say otherwise. Many who engage in homosexuality, abortion, violence, and crime are proud of what they do and they praise themselves for doing it. They exhibit *“the vain glory of life”* (pride) that is not of the Father, but is of the world (1 John 2:16).

 We need the example of Jesus very much today. We need his example of how he glorified his Father rather than glorifying himself. He honored and praised his Father, not himself. He wanted to do all that he could to obey and please his Father, not to please himself. With God out of the picture, many today in our proud society go around praising each other and they give no glory to God. When a society will not glorify their Maker, they will rapidly travel the downward spiral to sin and degradation (Romans 1:21-24). When societies change God’s glory (Romans 1:23) and begin to worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator, there is going to be a big problem (Romans 1:25). Mankind is made in the image and glory of God (1 Corinthians 11:7), but often mankind will not glorify the very One who made them. When modern societies like ancient Rome glorify themselves, they will soon grow immoral and be ripe for divine judgment (Revelation 18:7). God gives mankind time to change, but when they *“repent not to give him glory”* (Revelation 16:9), God will judge them. We will learn in this lesson how we can be “More Like the Master” in the glorification of his Father.

**Jesus and His Glorification**

 Jesus glorified his Father. Jesus spent his time honoring and praising his Father in every way possible. He wanted to live in such as way *“that the Father may be glorified in the Son”* (John 14:13). Consider a few ways in which Jesus glorified his Father.

 ***He glorified his Father by obeying him***. Jesus obeyed his Father’s will and word completely so that his Father could be honored and praised. Jesus said, *“I glorified thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which thou hast given me to do”* (John 17:4).

 ***He glorified his Father by giving himself***. Jesus gave himself on the cross to fulfill his Father’s plan of salvation. He gave himself so that his Father could be honored and praised. Jesus knew his “hour” was coming to die (John 12:23, 27) and he wanted his Father’s name to be glorified in that hour of death (John 12:28). When Judas left to betray Jesus, Jesus said, *“Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him; and God shall glorify him in himself, and straightway shall he glorify him”* (John 13:31-32). Jesus also prayed about his glorious hour of dying: *“These things spake Jesus; and lifting up his eyes to heaven, he said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that the son may glorify thee”* (John 17:1).

 Jesus was glorified by his Father. Jesus did not seek his own glory (John 7:18; 8:50) and he did not glorify himself (Hebrews 5:5). He let his Father glorify him. Jesus said, *“…it is my Father that glorifies me”* (John 8:54; see also Acts 3:13). Consider a few ways in which Jesus was glorified by his Father.

 ***He was given a glorified mission***. When Jesus came to the earth as the divine Son of God, he came with glory. Everything about Jesus was glorious; his character, his teachings, his miracles, etc. John writes: *“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth”* (1:14; see also Hebrews 1:3). Again John writes, *“This beginning of his signs did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested his glory; and his disciples believed on him”* (2:11). Even Isaiah saw the glorified mission of the Christ and spake of him (John 12:41). When Jesus was born, God was glorified by the shepherds (Luke 2:20). When Jesus healed others (Matthew 9:8; 15:31; Mark 2:12; Luke 5:25-26; 7:16; 13:13; 17:15; 18:43; John 11:4) and taught others (Luke 4:15), God was glorified by the multitudes. Jesus was also glorified by his Father when he was transfigured on the mount (2 Peter 1:17-18). Finally, when Jesus died, God was glorified by the centurion (Luke 23:47). Indeed, Jesus was *“the Lord of glory”* (1 Corinthians 2:8; James 2:1).

 ***He was given a glorified body***. When Jesus was raised from the dead he was given a glorified body (Philippians 3:21). We are not told the details of what Jesus’ glorified body looked like, but it must have been radiant like his transfigured body of glory that Peter, James, and John saw (Luke 9:31-32).

 ***He was given a glorified position***. When Jesus ascended back into heaven after his resurrection, he sat down at the right hand of God. He now sits on *“the throne of his glory”* (Matthew 19:28). When Jesus returned to heaven, he returned to his former glorified state of being. In his prayer, Jesus said, *“And now, Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was”* (John 17:5) … *“Father, I desire that they also whom thou hast given me be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world”* (John 17:24). Stephen saw *“the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God”* (Acts 7:55). Saul of Tarsus also saw the glorious light of Jesus on the road to Damascus (Acts 22:11). When Jesus returned to heaven, he was *“received up in glory”* (1 Timothy 3:16), where he now receives glory around the throne of God (Revelation 5:12-13).

 ***He will be given a glorified return***. When Jesus comes in judgment it will be with glory. He came *“with great power and glory”* in judgment against Jerusalem in A.D. 70 (Matthew 24:30), and he will do the same when he comes to judge the world. Speaking of his return, Jesus said *“the Son of Man shall come in his glory…”* (Matthew 16:27; 25:31). Jesus will come *“in his own glory, and the glory of the Father, and of the holy angels”* (Luke 9:26). Jesus’ return will be a glorious return. It will be visible and audible to all when he returns. Christians should live soberly and righteously and be *“looking for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ”* (Titus 2:13).

**The Christian and Glorification**

New Testament Christians following the example of Jesus brought glory to God through their obedience to him. God was glorified when miracles were performed by the Apostles (Acts 4:21), when souls were saved to eternal life (Acts 11:18; 13:48), and when the Lord’s work was done (Acts 21:20).

We must glorify the Father like Jesus glorified him. When a person sins, he falls *“short of the glory of God”* (Romans 3:23). However, when a person obeys the gospel, he has an opportunity to live a life of glory to God *“in the church and in Christ Jesus”* (Ephesians 3:21; see also Philippians 3:3; 2 Thessalonians 2:14). Jesus died so that he could bring *“many sons unto glory”* (Hebrews 2:10). Christians bring glory to God the same way that Jesus did. Christians glorify God through their obedience to him. For example, when Christians do good works, people will see these works and glorify our Father who is in heaven (Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:12). When Christians pray in Jesus’ name (John 14:13) and when they bear much fruit (John 15:8), God is glorified.

 When Christians live a life of faithful trust in God (Romans 4:20) and are unified (Romans 15:6, 7), God is glorified. Christians need to use their bodies in a good way to God’s glory (1 Corinthians 6:20) and all their actions need to glorify God (1 Corinthians 10:31). Christians need to live with holiness and sincerity like Paul did and God will be glorified (2 Corinthians 1:12). Christians need to preach the glorious gospel like Paul did (2 Corinthians 3:7-18; 4:4-6). When needy saints are helped by their brethren, God is glorified (2 Corinthians 8:19, 23-24; 9:2, 13). When Christ is confessed as Lord, God is glorified (Philippians 2:11). When Christians walk worthily of God, God is glorified (1 Thessalonians 2:12, 19, 20). When Christians accomplish works of faith (2 Thessalonians 1:12) and when God’s word is preached to others (2 Thessalonians 3:1), God is glorified. When Christians faithfully speak God’s word and minister to others, God is glorified (1 Peter 4:11). When we suffer as a Christian, we *“glorify God in this name”* (1 Peter 4:16).

 We will be glorified like Jesus was glorified. Christians do not glorify themselves, but they let God glorify them in due time. Like Jesus, faithful Christians will one day be glorified by God for their faithful obedience to him. First, faithful Christians will be given a glorified body. Our earthly body is sown in dishonor and weakness (we are born with a physical body that wears out), but one day it will be *“raised in glory”* (1 Corinthians 15:43). Paul writes: *“who shall fashion anew the body of our humiliation, that it may be conformed to the body of his glory…”* (Philippians 3:21). John writes: *“…we shall be like him, for we shall see him even as he is”* (1 John 3:2).

 Second, faithful Christians will one day be given a glorified place in heaven. Jesus promised that one day his servants would be where he is: in a place of heavenly honor (John 12:26). Christians who are patient in well-doing will be rewarded with *“glory and honor and incorruption, eternal life … glory and honor and peace”* (Romans 2:7, 10). The Christian’s hope of heaven gives us cause to *“rejoice in the hope of the glory of God”* (Romans 5:2). Paul writes: *“When Christ, who is our life, shall be manifested, then shall ye also with him be manifested in glory”* (Colossians 3:4). Faithful Christians will one day be rewarded with a place of honor and glory on the throne of Jesus (Revelation 3:21).

**More Like the Master in His Glorification**

 Jesus lived a life of suffering first before he was glorified. He traveled the road from suffering to glory. Jesus said, *“Behooved it not the Christ to suffer these things, and to enter into his glory?”* (Luke 24:26). In a similar way, Christians will suffer first in this life for the cause of Christ, but they will be glorified by God in the next. Paul writes: *“if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified with him. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to us-ward”* (Romans 8:17-18). Again Paul writes: “*For our light affliction, which is for the moment, worketh for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory”* (2 Corinthians 4:17). Peter writes: *“that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold that perisheth though it is proved by fire, may be found unto praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ:”(*1 Peter 1:7; see also 1 Peter 4:13; 5:10).

 When Jesus returns*, “he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and marveled at in all them that believe…”* (2 Thessalonians 1:10). Will you be a part of that glorious reunion between Christ and his saints? You will be a part of it if you are willing to glorify God now in obedience. Let us all be willing to glorify God through our obedience to him and let us all be willing to go through the suffering to receive the glory. Let us bear our cross, so that one day we can wear our crown. Let us all be “More Like the Master” in the his glorification.

**Questions**

1. Who or what is often glorified in our modern society?

2. What happens to people who glorify themselves in their worldly behavior?

3. What did Jesus do to show that he wanted to glorify his Father while on earth?

4. How was Jesus glorified by his Father?

5. What things can a Christian do to glorify God while they are living?

6. How will faithful Christians be glorified by God one day?

7. Which comes first, suffering or glory, and what can we learn from this?