



# BEARING GLORY VS. SEEKING GLORY

THE CHURCH | WEEK 9  
AMANDA BEGGS

## **John 17:1-5, 20-26**

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Jesus prayed for the church before the crucifixion, demonstrating that we were on His mind as He faced the cross.

**The Church is marked by the glory of Jesus, which means glory is not something we chase alone but something we carry together.**

**God's glory:** weight and worth

1. Old Testament: kavod—weight or heaviness
2. New Testament: doxa—reputation, honor, effect of His presence

**God's Actions:** acts of kindness, mercy toward us, His justice

**God's Reputation:** fame, namesake. Connected to God's identity

**God's Character:** God's divine excellence, His perfection. God's power is His glory. His righteousness is His glory. His grace is His glory

Jesus is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature (**Hebrews 1:3**) and the image of the invisible God...for in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell (**Colossians 1:15,19**).

God's glory is made fully visible in Jesus Christ, particularly through the cross.

### **Luke 19:38**

"Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

### **John 1:14**

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The crowd on Palm Sunday misunderstood glory, expecting political victory rather than sacrificial love.

### **Genesis 11:4**

"Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth."

Humanity has been trying to make a name for itself since the Tower of Babel, but Jesus has already given us an identity.

**We don't have to build our own worth because we already have dignity and value in Christ.**

**Unity:** Different Methods, Same Mission

**When method becomes ultimate, mission becomes secondary.**

**Our mission:** to know Jesus and to make Him known.

### **John 13:1-5**

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

We have different roles but should maintain the same posture of humility, following Jesus' example of washing feet.

### **John 13:14-15**

If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.

**Unity:** different struggles, same need

**Self-Righteous Pride:** We don't think our struggles are that bad. We are good at being good.

**Shameful Condemnation:** We look at our struggles as irredeemable. We've messed up in big, often public ways and think there's no turning back.

### **Romans 3:23**

For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

### **2 Corinthians 3:18**

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

*If you had only died for our sins, securing our forgiveness at the cross and not made us your family, **it would have been enough.***

*If you had only adopted us into your family, making us sons and daughters, and not gathered us as your flock, **it would have been enough.***

*If you had only gathered us as your flock, known, cared for and led by by you our Good Shepherd and not made us your body, **it would have been enough.***

*If you had only made us your body, joined together, each with a purpose, with Christ as our head and not built us into your temple, **it would have been enough.***

*If you had only built us into your temple living stones, carrying your presence into the world and not called us your royal priesthood, **it would have been enough.***

*If you had only called us your royal priesthood, set apart to draw near to you and declare your goodness and not loved us as your bride, **it would have been enough.***

*If you had only loves us as your bride, cherished, pursued, and made ready for you and not gathered us into a multitude, **it would have been enough.***

*If you had only gathered us into a multitude from every nation, tribe, and tongue worshiping you forever, **it would have been enough.***

## **Ephesians 3:20-21**

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.

### **SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS**

- 1. How does our culture define “glory” or success? How is Jesus’ definition of glory radically different?**
- 2. Where are you trying to make a name for yourself? What are you building?**
- 3. Can you think of an example where the church (or you personally) has elevated method over mission? What was the result?**
- 4. What does it look like practically to “wash feet” in your current season of life and ministry?**

