

Grace, Mercy and Peace to you from Our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ! Amen.

Last Sunday we looked at Jesus' peace! The Peace that connotes a sense of satisfaction, a sense of fulfillment even amidst of our daily struggles and hardship in life, conflict and disruption and what not....yet we are at peace because of Jesus' free gift of Peace for us.

Today, I want us to dwell on Jesus' glory! What does Jesus mean by all his talk in today's gospel about "glory"?

*"The glory that you have given me I have given them... . . ."* (John 17: 22)

*"I desire that those also . . . to see my glory, the glory which you have given me because you loved me . . ."* (John 17: 24)

But before we continue on with that theme of the sermon, allow me to briefly say one thing about this text recanting Jesus' prayers.

It is a prayer that looks to the future. Jesus was praying not only for the people seated around him at table that evening but also for his future followers, as he said, *"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word"* (John 17:20)

Which means we are included. Thanks be to God! as Jesus continued on, *"That they may all be one"* (John 17: 21) It is a prayer that focuses on unity, on all being one. In his prayers Jesus sets up his hope, his vision, and his picture of what we, his followers, are to look like and how we are to live our lives together as a follower of Christ or as a Christians.

It is a prayer for community. Jesus prays that, **"all may be one."** To be a follower of Jesus is to be a part of a greater whole. Within that community the prayer is for unity: "that all may be **one.**" And here is the thing, does that mean we all have to get along all the time? Does that mean we all have to agree **all** the time? I don't think so. We are one in Christ whether we agree with each other or not. We are one in Christ whether we like one another or not. To become a part of Christ is to become a part of the community; a part of the one **because oneness and unity is about love. Yes, we love our community and our family.** We are part of family and within that love there can be disagreements and squabbling. We are human. But then Jesus became human like one of us to bring and to share God desired of unity with us. We can only pray to God's help so that we can live into that oneness.

Now back to GLORY!

Well, we tend to think of God's glory as the glamorous, obvious, radiant things that demonstrates the power of God. Something luminous and splendid and mind-boggling and blinding and majestic in ways that send us falling down upon our faces in humble adoration. Indeed! But at the same time, walk with me in reviewing God's glory in Jesus through the Gospel of John.

If we look at the Gospel of John, we are familiar on how it starts, "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...*" (John 1:1) What amazed me is that in all of these, there was no mention about glory until in verse 14, "**And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his GLORY, the glory as of a father's only one, full of grace and truth**" John 1:14

Do you notice that? There is no mention of glory in connection to the great words about the beginning of all things, about the creation, or about anything that we might regard as "heavenly" and eternal in nature. No! Glory came onto the scene only after the incarnation or Jesus made flesh is mentioned. That is one.

The second time, we see the word glory is mentioned in the gospel of John after Jesus turned the water into wine at the Wedding in Cana. "*Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his GLORY, and his disciples believed in him.*" John 2: 11

I have named previously in my sermon the seven signs that Jesus did in the gospel of John and I am not going to repeat it again, but remember the first (which we just heard) and the last one was the raising of Lazarus from the dead. Now THAT was something, raising someone from the dead! But I must say that the disciples put their faith in Jesus' turning the water into wine that revealed his glory, raised a bit of my eyebrows! Really? Glory in a goblet of wine? Glory in wine created for people already tipsy? But yes, there it is: **glory can be ever-so-mundane**. And that is the point I want to arrive on. That is our take home today from this sermon. Because glory can also come through the grace and truth of the very humble in person of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Trinity members, the glory of Jesus emerged in the course of his ministry when he gave hope to the poor, when he forgave the sins of broken and marginalized persons. The glory of Jesus appeared when he reached out to his enemies in love, when he displayed grace to the least deserving. That is where we see Jesus' glory. And Jesus' glory shines through us when the Church is humble; when the church is doing quiet things to serve the poor; when the church is preaching good news to the broken. Like today, we just blessed these bags of blessings for the homeless, a very small act indeed but for sure Jesus' glory will shine on it as you share it with the needy! Sometimes, we are envying to think that the only way God's glory shine on us is when we get the attention of the media and when our programs and ministries become global in scope and when we have to build bigger sanctuaries and more popular like the mega churches!

Today, we know that the glory that the Father gave to the Son and that the Son gives to the Church is not only the glory of a bright lights and a great movement. It's the glory of the Word of God becoming flesh, in the person of Jesus, dwelling here in the mud and the mess of this world. It's the glory of the One who came to serve and not be served. That is the glory the Father gave the Son. That is the glory we display in the Church we, like our Savior, serve quietly and humbly.

Amen!