

Introduction

This reading is a prayer for us and in it Jesus prays that we may have his joy within us. What does that mean?

- Listen to the short reflection – track 2 on the CD – click the link on the website
- Read the Bible passages
- Have a go at answering the questions – if you would like to discuss your answers please phone Mary German on 01562 720393.

John 17

¹After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ²For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

⁶“I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

¹³“I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵My prayer is not that you take them out

of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

²⁰ “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— ²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

²⁴ “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

²⁵ “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

Questions

1. Glory and glorify are common words in the bible and in worship songs? What do they mean? Why did Jesus say in verse 1 that the time had come for the Son and the Father to be glorified?
2. Read v 9-10. What did Jesus mean by, “glory has come to me through them”? What implications has that for us today?
3. Read v 22-23. Not only do we give glory to God, he gives it to us. What does this mean? In what ways is it expressed?
4. There are many ways of describing what a Christian is. In v 2-3,6-8,20-23 and 26 there might be a dozen. Which ones strike you most, and why? How do you relate to the idea that this is how Jesus sees you?
5. v 18 says “As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.” What does this mean for us?
6. Jesus prays for us to have a full measure of his joy while being under attack from the evil one and living in a world which can be hostile or feel alien. How can we make sense of that?
7. In v 11 and 21-23 Jesus is praying for oneness. Why is this so important? What should we be doing about divisions among Christians today?