

## **JESUS' LIFE SUMMED UP IN A PRAYER**

### **John 13:3-5; 17:4-8**

**Introduction:** Suppose you knew that tomorrow or the day following your life would be ended and you were trying to sum up for someone what your life meant, what you felt were the abiding values of your life. What might you say? Jesus was in that actual situation in the 17th chapter of John. His situation was introduced in John 13:3-5 and we are familiar with the Upper Room Discourse. At the end of their time together in the upper room, Jesus prays and in His prayer He reviews His life to the Father of His 33 years on earth. Jesus gathers all His 33 earthly years into three tremendous areas.

### **I. JESUS LED A SELFLESS LIFE WHICH GLORIFIED THE FATHER (17:4-5)**

1. No other human could ever utter those words!
  - Jesus is asking to be restored to the glory that He previously had after surrendering that position for over 33 years.
  
2. Jesus is point out that the work that glorified the Father was essential one of self-emptying and that glorified God. *Philippians 2:6-7*
  - We think that God is interested in our activity, regardless of the frame of our mind.
  - It is not activity that God desires. It is a heart that is ready to obey, an ear that is ready to hear, a will that is ready to be subject to the Father, a willingness to be always available, to be forever giving of one's self.
  - That is what Jesus did, that is what God wants of us as well.
  
3. What is the "cost of discipleship?" It's not giving up things!
  - The cost of discipleship is when we disobey, rebel, are unwilling to give ourselves.
  - When we say, "we are not our own" yet we still cling to the "right" to run our own lives, etc.
  - When we say, "we want to do God's will" but only as long as it is what we want to do.
  - When we still want what we want and are not willing like Jesus was to walk in glad obedience.
  
4. It is not the "cost of discipleship" that we should be concerned about, but the "cost of our rebellion."
  - What is there for any of us to "give up" compared to what Jesus Christ gave up?

### **II. JESUS SHOWED EVERYONE HOW FAITHFUL GOD, THE FATHER, IS (17:6)**

1. The lives of the disciples were changed when the Name of God finally became real to them.
  - They came to believe that God is who/what He says He is.
  
2. Jesus' life was spent unveiling the total resources of God, the Father, in order that the believers might discover what a tremendous, unending resource they have in God.
  
3. It is a fact that Christians refuse to believe that God is what/who He says He is and instead quickly believe what Satan says about God. They think they have done everything required, but God hasn't acted, therefore God will do things for some, but not for everybody (for them).

4. "God is faithful..." How many times does the scriptures say that?
5. The whole work of Jesus is to show the faithfulness of God. Look at Jesus! He is our example. When was He anxious, troubled, disturbed or afraid that He did not rest in the faithful name of God?

### III. JESUS' WORDS CAUSED BELIEF IN GOD (17:8)

1. What made the disciples believe this man whom they had come to know so well, in all His humanity, was also Incarnate God, sent of the Father?
  - His Miracles? No! His miracles never convinced anybody of His deity. Perhaps of His Messianism, as the miracles were designed to do but not His deity.
  - Was it the power He exercised over men? No! There had been other men, even evil men who had exercised tremendous power over the minds and hearts of men before Jesus.
  - What was it then that caused men to believe in God? It was Jesus' Words!
2. The Words of Jesus searched their hearts, opened their eyes, and dispelled their doubts, setting fire to their souls. *"...never has anybody spoken like this Man..."*
  - When they took His words seriously, things happened to them that only God could do.
  - Those Words still have that same power today.
3. Are you troubled by doubts as to your Christian faith? Do you have questions about God's will, or His power, or His love, or His care for you?
  - If so, then start taking the words of Jesus seriously.

### CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus came to do three things: to give Himself in a self-emptying ministry - to manifest an all-empowering Name by which anything that needed to be done was done - to speak compelling words that would awaken faith in the hearts of men and cause them to believe.
2. Jesus came from God and He went to God. That is also the way of a Christian's life.
  - The Christian's life came from God.
  - When the Christian's life is through here, he/she will go into the Father's presence.
  - From beginning to the end, the Christian should live a life that glorifies the Father, showing the world the Name that brings salvation and Godly power and speaking words that cause people to realize their own need of God and only God is the source of all truth and reality.
3. Jesus' prayer included all of us and there is not a single word of His prayer that you and I cannot pray as well.
4. Let us end trying to live our lives the way we want to and turn them completely over to God as Jesus did.