

CHAPEL ON THE HILL
 Shrewsbury, Massachusetts
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<p>And so Jesus gives us a commentary of what that moment in time was about. This hour, in John 12, defines for us who God is and what He is about. This is His hour.</p> <p>There were many times when His hour had not yet come. (John 7:30; 8:20; Mark 14:35) This was not fate; this was God’s pre-ordained plan from the beginning of the world. No one had power over this hour for this was God’s hour. No one took Jesus’ life; He laid it down willingly.</p>	<p><i>John 7:30; 8:20; Mark 14:35</i></p> <p><i>John 18:4-6</i></p>
<p>C. This was an hour of purpose. We are people of purpose. We hate things that make no sense or meaning. I don’t like movies that have no plot. I don’t like songs with words I cannot understand. You good people should not be comforted by sermons that make no sense to you. It is only when we understand something that there is hope. Jesus was the One who had a purpose driven life. And because of this we can all have a promise driven life. If you want a ‘purpose driven life,’ there you have it. And because Jesus fulfilled all of the Father’s good purpose, we can live by His promise to redeem those who believe in His work for us.</p> <p>So Jesus was troubled about His hour. But He poses an interesting question: “What should I say? ‘Father save me from this hour.’” Of course not, because His coming to earth was for this purpose. This means He was actually accomplishing something in this hour, not just teaching us something.</p>	<p><i>John 12:27</i></p>
<p>There are many people who say that Jesus was just a good teacher and was not really God’s Son. So let me ask you something. If someone ran into a burning building to save someone else and died in the process of the rescue, we would have no doubt about their bravery, and admire their willingness to lay down their life for someone they didn’t even know. Set them out as an example! Great. But let’s say that a person just ran into the burning building to show their bravery. Moreover, they weren’t trying to save anyone or put out the fire; they just ran in there. If their act had no purpose we wouldn’t think them brave, but idiotic and perhaps insane. No one would envy their bravery, because it had not purpose.</p> <p>Jesus’ cross had a purpose. And His hour of purpose had finally come. He was not just running into a burning building, His work was to save people from that building. And in so doing He would be terribly burned and killed. That’s His name you know. Jesus, in the Greek language, means ‘God saves’. Saves from what? Mat. 1:21. Our sins. In other words Christmas morning was all about Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Please note the purpose of the cross, Jesus’ purpose for coming, was NOT to make morally upright people necessarily a comfortable and politically conservative society. His purpose was not to teach us how to do this or that. His purpose was to suffer and die on the cross for our sins. That’s why He came.</p>	

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<p>See the importance of His purpose. If Jesus had not done this, the salvation of our souls would rest on us. And we would all be damned to hell forever. Gal. 2:21 falls onto God’s free grace to us, and says “if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died needlessly.” Do you know what that is saying? If being a good person could get you into heaven, if righteousness comes through the law, then His cross was meaningless.</p>	
<p>D. This was an hour of God’s glory. The irony is that this hour didn’t seem very glorious, oh quite the contrary. The cross was all about shame and humiliation. He was striped naked, mocked and blasphemed. But God was doing something amazing. His glory is so awesome that even in setting His own glory aside by taking the humiliation of the cross, His glory still shines. Through an eternal mountain of dirt and sin and shame, blood and dung, He still shines. Even in death, He is the Life. Even in shame, He is the Glorious One.</p>	<i>John 12:28-32</i>
<p>Let’s consider our own lives for a moment. Does it seem odd to you that the hour of Jesus’ trouble – is also the hour of His glory? Doesn’t that seem odd that verse 23 and verse 27 are so close together? <i>Glory and trouble?</i> Don’t be surprised if your hour of trouble, should also be an hour which you can best glorify God.</p> <p>Have you reached an hour of trouble, or has the path become rocky and confusing. Well know for certain even if it is an hour of trouble for you, it is God’s hour. No man ever suffered so as Jesus, no man ever knew as much trouble and despair, and yet wasn’t that hour designed for Jesus to glorify the Father? Your hour of trouble is an hour of promise; it is an hour of glory. Of course it doesn’t seem so. No hour was darker than the cross, but no other hour displayed Jesus so beautifully. So take heart in your hard place, if God can turn the cross to glory, He can take what suffering you may endure and use it to glorify Him for sure.</p>	
<p>2. The Glory of a perfect and completed ministry – John 17:1,4</p> <p>Up till the cross, Jesus completed His ministry. We are going to see the same quality of excellence in the finishing of the next phase of His ministry. The word in Greek here in vs. 4 for completing, or finishing, is τελειωω. It’s root is τελος (telos) which means to complete. But this word also has the sense of perfection. Jesus didn’t just do what the Father set out for Him to do, He did it perfectly, with the right motives and attitude and joy.</p> <p>Let’s look together at how Jesus Glorified God through His finished work on the cross. We read in John 19:28-30 three words related to τελος.</p>	<i>John 17:1, 4</i>
<p>(1) First notice it in Vs. 28 – all things had already been completed. The word is actually repeated twice for emphasis. It would read literally - all things were completed now completely.</p>	<i>John 18:28-30</i>

<p>Jesus had perfectly completed everything He needed to as the Messiah.</p> <p>All except one thing. But in order for the scriptures to be τελειωω, fulfilled, perfected, one more thing had to happen. But drinking vinegar is nothing close to having your flesh ripped off your back, see, so for all practical purposes, the turmoil of the cross was done.</p> <p>(2) Next we read that since Jesus had come to this point all He needed was to fulfill one more prophecy (Ps. 69:21). This was a form of suffering for Him, and a kind of mockery. You don't give a thirsty person vinegar to drink; there is no mercy or care in this. Now why such care to fulfill the prophecy? <u>He is suffering immensely, and yet He is not willing that even the most obscure passage be missed.</u> How many of us have this work ethic—we let little things slide sometimes. But Jesus perfectly obeyed the Father. (Matthew Henry) “As surely as Jesus was physically thirsty, He was also thirsty to glorify God by accomplishing everything.”</p> <p>(3) Finally, Jesus says, it is finished. In the greek language it is one word. Τετελειωται. All the scripture was fulfilled. This is the same word we find in Heb. 10:14. One word, “Perfect. Complete. Fulfilled. For all time.” Guess what, today, it is still finished. The lamb of God was spotless, without stain or sin, the victory was complete, and the whole thing was finished.</p>	
<p>Close – There is nothing more for us to do. Jesus took the greatest pains to finish everything to the finest detail. When Jesus said it is finished, He didn't say we must operate on a performance basis with Him. Jesus accomplished the purpose driven life for us, and now we are called to live a promise driven life.</p> <p>So when we read that we are forgiven of our sins it was not some fantasy or pretend game that God plays with us. I like to play pretend with my kids. We pretend we are firefighters. We get our gear on, self-contained breathing apparatus and everything. Putting on all this stuff makes the pretend more real. And Rebecca is right behind us following every move with ignorant glee. There is great emotion and intensity there. That makes the pretend more real, even in Rebecca. And we put out fires and save people. However, none of it is real in any sense of the matter. In no way shape or form are we actually putting out any fire, or saving anyone.</p> <p>I think that sometimes we approach our justification as if God was playing a pretend game with us. When we are playing church everything is fine. We dress up and put on all the character traits of a Christian. And we may have really even believed in our hearts at one time that Jesus is our One and Only Savior. We say we are saved and maybe even have our emotions stirred. But when we are alone in our hearts our sins are ever before us and it all just seems</p>	

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like a big pretend game God is playing with us.

It seems pretend because I still fight my sin. The flames of my sinful nature burn brighter than that cross often times. **I am so prone to wander from Him**, in spite of how wonderful He is. And it shows how awful I am. I don't seem like I am white as snow. Does Jesus **just pretend** with us to put out the flames of hell and save us from certain eternal death? NO! Jesus actually paid for our sins in an actual crucifixion 2000 years ago. And in doing so He finished what needed to be done for our salvation.

Are you trying to complete, even after salvation, what has been completed for you?

Stop it. Be still, and tremble and know that He is God; He has accomplished what was needed. Believe this and you will be saved.

Thank you and have a blessed week.

Join us every Sunday morning at 10:15am | Have a prayer request? Send it to us online.