**JESUS’ HIGH PRIESTLY PRAYER**

John 17:1-5

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**INTRODUCTION**

In Galatians 4:4, Paul writes that, in the fullness of time, God sent His Son into the world to seek and save those who were lost. Everything was perfectly in order for the coming of the Son of Man, Jesus Christ. During His three plus years of earthly ministry, His disciples were always encouraging Him to act in establishing His Kingdom. However, He would typically tell them that His time had not yet come, but that man’s time was always now—in a hurry (see John 7:6-7). At the end of His earthly ministry, Jesus recognized that the time was right for Him to lay down His life on the cross and die for the sins of the world. The night before dying, He prayed a long prayer, called the high priestly prayer. It is recorded in John 17. I propose to examine this prayer over the next few weeks leading up to Easter Sunday. Let us examine His prayer closely.

1. **THE TIME HAS COME.**
2. There is a time that is just right—**God’s** time.
3. The time has come for God to glorify **Himself** by glorifying His **Son**.
4. **THE TIME FOR ETERNAL LIFE IS NOW.**
5. Eternal life is life that goes on forever in God’s **presence**—beginning at salvation.
6. It is only possible when one understands and **believes** that God sent Jesus into the world to die for our sins.
7. **THE TIME FOR WORK IS FINISHED.**
8. The time will come when **death** ends one’s work here on earth.
9. That time has come for Jesus as He has glorified the Father by **completing** the work God gave Him to do.
10. **THE TIME FOR GLORIFYING GOD IS NOW.**
11. There is no time like the present **moment** to glorify God.
12. The time has come for Jesus to be **restored** to His former glory in Heaven.

**CONCLUSION**

Jesus, recognizing the fullness of time in His life and ministry, fully realized what was going to happen next in His life: He was facing horrible torture and death on the cross at daybreak. He began His high priestly prayer by praying for Himself. He desired to die in such a way that He would glorify God. The same should be true for all of us as God’s children. We should all desire to end life in such a way that we give validity to our life of faith and thereby glorify God. When we pray for such an end result in our lives, we are praying as Jesus prayed.

*“Jesus to Calv’ry did go, His love for others to show.*

*What He did there brought hope from despair.*

*O, how He loves you; O, how He loves me;*

*O, how He loves you and me.”*