

John 17:1-11 ESV

We Have All Fallen, *But the Father Has Picked Us Up through Jesus!*

Services: Sunday, 5/28 at 8:00 & 10:45

Church Year: Seventh Sunday of Easter – 2017

Mondays Resume on June 5 at 7 PM

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Picture a very elderly person who has fallen, *but has no ability to get up; the person requires outside intervention!* The same is true for us in a spiritual sense, *but we have done more than fall, we have dropped dead!* Therefore, *God the Father has taken action to pick us up – to make us spiritually alive – through Jesus!*

As we return to the gospel of John, Jesus is still in the upper room with His disciples; ♣He has washed their feet, ♣they have eaten the Passover Meal, and ♣Jesus has told them many important things. Now, *in chapter 17*, Jesus will pray an important prayer; then He and His disciples will go to the Garden of Gethsemane.

1. **Jesus Prayed to His Father:** ¹ **When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.”**
 - a. What words? That phrase could include what Jesus said in chapters 13-16; some bad news in 13, encouragement in 14, regarding their close relationship in 15, and the Holy Spirit in 16.

- b. What hour? Not necessarily a single hour *but a period of time*; a reference to Jesus' death, *which would take place within hours!*
- c. What glory? How was Jesus asking His Father to glorify Him? Lenski put it this way: **"The Father is to exalt Jesus by investing his human nature with the unlimited use of the divine attributes in the glory of heaven; ...[so] the Son may make the glorious attributes of the Father shine out in all the world through the work of the Spirit in the gospel and in the church"** (1116). Remember, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are working together to bless us *both now and forevermore!*

2. **The Essence of Eternal Life:** ³ **"And this is eternal life, that they [may] know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."** // Being saved is **not** on the basis of what we do, ***but it's who we know!*** Since our sin destroyed our relationship with God, **He** took action to build a bridge to us in the Person of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ! **Then**, in Holy Baptism, *He clothed us in Christ and made us holy in His sight!* **Now**, by God's grace, ➔ we know the Father and His Son, ➔ we have eternal life, and ➔ we are richly blessed!

3. **We Have Fallen Short, But Not Jesus:** ⁴ **"I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do."** ⁵ **And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed."**

- a. The Bible says that **"all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"** (Rom. 3:23): Well, *everyone except Jesus!* Since **"the glory of God"** is to

perfectly do His will, we have all fallen short, but Jesus has been flawless FOR US – by perfectly accomplishing all that the Father requested!

- b. Jesus asked the Father to glorify Him by bringing Him to heaven: *He was referring to His ascension, and, according to Lenski, “to be glorified according to his human nature with the glory that was his before the world began” (1127).*

4. **Jesus Identified His Disciples:** ⁶ **“I have manifested [made known] your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. ⁸ For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.”**

- a. The Father gave certain ones to Jesus: The ones whom “he chose... in [Christ] before the foundation of the world” (Eph. 1:4 ESV). Those are the ones who – by God’s power – *keep God’s Word*; that means they do not twist it or reject it but – *by God’s grace* – they believe it!
- b. The disciples were different: They were *not* like others who said, “We believe in God and Moses, *but not in Jesus.*” Instead, they were ones who had their eyes opened *to see the true and close relationship between the Father and the Son!*

5. **Jesus Prayed for His Disciples:** ⁹ **“I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All**

mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.”

- a. Jesus deeply cared about His disciples: They were chosen by the Father and given to Him, so they belonged to both – *as we belong to both!*
- b. Jesus said, “I am glorified” in my disciples: What does that mean? Jesus’ disciples honored Him as the Messiah; *they believed that He is the Promised One sent by the Father to take away the sins of the world!* By God’s work in our lives, by His Spirit through Baptism and through His Holy Word, we believe the same!
- c. Jesus would soon die, rise, and ascend, so He asked the Father to keep His disciples in the Father’s name that they may be one: Lenski noted that *“the world... is full of delusion and spurns [God’s] name, [so] the disciples [needed] divine care lest they lose their connection with the saving ‘name’” (1136).* We also need the same, God’s powerful intervention in our lives!

Conclusion: Let us pray: Father in heaven, we are so blessed to know You and Your Son, and have the Spirit living within us; *please powerfully work through Word and Sacrament to keep us in Your name, in Your holy family.* Amen!

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