



WALKING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST
CAMINANDO EN LA LUZ DE CRISTO
MACHÉ LAN LUMIÉ AK JÉZIKRI

CATHOLIC CONVERSATIONS ON THE SCRIPTURES

Archdiocese of Miami - Ministry of Christian Formation

May 4, 2008

7th Sunday of Easter (Cycle A)

Gospel reading John 17:1-11a

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that your son may give eternal life to all you gave him. Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ. I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do. Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began. I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you gave me is from you, because the words you gave to me I have given to them, and they accepted them and truly understood that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you."

Brief commentary:

The entire chapter 17 is a long prayer directed by Jesus to the Father. Since the 16th century, this chapter has been known as the "high priestly prayer" of Jesus. It was pronounced at the Last Supper before his Passion, and it is a reminder that the resurrection of Jesus which we just celebrated was God's way of glorifying the Son. During this meal, Jesus recognized that the hour had come; God would be glorified and God's infinite love for all was to be revealed in Jesus. Eternal life will consist in recognizing this divine presence.

At this time of farewell, Jesus speaks to the Father and not to the disciples, acting as intercessor and praying for all believers present and future. He asks that they be protected by the power of God and that their unity resemble the intimate union of Father and Son.

Today's reading offers three significant messages:

- The cross and the Resurrection are so connected in the Gospel of John that Jesus' prayer before his Passion is about glorification.
- To know God and Jesus is eternal life and it begins here and now!
- In John's Gospel, "the name" is most likely "I AM" (see 8:24; 28:58; 13:19).

For our shared or personal reflection:

After a brief pause for silent reflection share your answers, ideas or feelings.

1. Jesus gives glory to God by willingly laying down his life and taking it up again (see John 10:18) How am I "laying down my life" for others?
2. How am I living my eternal life now? Am I a content and peaceful person?

Suggested readings: Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraphs 217; 589; 730; 1085; 2746-51; 2812; 2815.