

5/15/59
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Scripture Lesson: - St. John 17: 1-10.

Text: - St/ John 17: 1. "These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father the hour is come; glorify the Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee."

Introduction: - These words of Jesus express the fact that he was confronted with a supreme hour of destiny in his life. The hour of Gethsemane and the crucifixion were just before him.

Jesus went through that great hour of destiny in prayer. He won the victory on his knees. He went to the cross to die in triumph, not in ignominious defeat; to taste death for every man to die for you and me.

Three hours of destiny have come in the life of God himself. First, it was a great hour of destiny when God said, "Let us make the worlds". Another hour of destiny was when God said, "Let us make man"; another hour of tragic destiny was in the garden of Eden when man fell and went astray. But in the hour of destiny, yes tragic destiny, the infinite love of God was manifest in providing a way for a fallen race, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son".

It was toward that hour of destiny that the prophets looked. The ancient seers, saw across the centuries, the day of his coming. It was his coming that attracted the attention of the angels when they swung low to sing the glad song of triumph and hope when Christ was born into the world, the Savior of men.

I.

It was a great hour of destiny when Jesus went to the cross when he rose from the tomb, when he ascended on high, where sitting at the right hand of the Father, he sent his blessed Holy Spirit, initiating a new dispensation in the upper room on the day of Pentecost.

We look to another high hour of destiny in the fulfilling of the events of the present age, in the return of the Lord Jesus Christ himself,

when he shall come, descending from heaven with a shout, when the dead in Christ shall rise first and we which are alive shall be caught up with him in the clouds, as thus shall we ever be with the Lord. Yes, we are marching on to glorious things.

II.

You can enumerate some of the hours of destiny in your own life. First, was your birth. It was a significant day when you were born. Did you ever stop to thank God that you were born. We have a right to celebrate birthdays. You started on a march of destiny for time and for eternity when you were born. An English teacher had the habit of saying to all of her pupils, "Young ladies and gentlemen, be careful in the choice of your parents". It was just another way of saying that a responsibility rests upon us in parenthood, to hand down to our children the best possible heritage, physically, mentally and spiritually.

Another hour of destiny of great significance was that hour that confronted you when you made a decision that would relate you to the kingdom of God. That was the hour when Jesus stood knocking at your hearts door, seeking admission to your heart and life. What a moment when you said, "yes" and opened the door and let Christ come in. When he came in, your name was written in the book of life and there came to you a sweet inner consciousness that you were a child of God. What a tragedy it would have been, if you had kept the door closed and turned a deaf ear to the Savior. Where would you be today? You would be among the lost multitudes of the world.

III.

Some of us remember the days when we had quite a struggle concerning the call of God to special service. In some cases years passed by before the final decision came. It was a great hour for you, when you cried out like the young prophet Isaiah, when he saw the Lord lifted up in the temple; when he saw his own uncleanness and

cried out in the depths of his soul for purity within. At last he arrived at the place of complete surrender to God, where he cried out, "Here I am, send me".

It is a great honor, a great trust, a great privilege, a great opportunity to come to a human being, to be called of God to any special field of labor in his kingdom.

Conclusion:- Great hours of decision, high moments of destiny come in the life of institutions, nations, and civilizations. These hours of destiny can be met successfully only upon our knees in submission to the will of God. Jesus was concerned about this when he said, "The hour is come". Soon after making this statement he went to the garden and prayed until great drops of blood came out from his brow. Hear his prayer, "If it be possible, let this cup pass," but he did not stop there, but prayed further, "Nevertheless not my will but thine be done". We will pass successfully through every great hour of destiny that confront us if we will but face it with this spirit and attitude, "Not my will, but thine be done".