

Stolen Glory

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6:20am, October 3rd, 2020

Steven Love asked our church if anyone had experienced a rough 2019 to make a point. Point aside, I noticed no one raised their hand like he asked. Either those in that category were unwilling to raise their hand or that many like myself didn't see 2019 as a rough year. When things are going great, I've learned the danger of success because many snares can entangle me. 2019 was a dangerous year. Our family did not want for anything. I had numerous compliments of achievement and character. I often didn't heed the warning signs. I started believing everything is great because I'm great, or wanted people to believe I'm great and avoided spiritual conversations, I took the glory for success and even worse, made myself look better...manipulating for more glory for myself, as if taking what belongs to God wasn't enough. So 2020 starts with repentance and a study on glory and who gets it.

Read the following passages (listed on page 2): John 5:30-47, 7:16-18, 17:1-5

1. What does Jesus mean when He says He "can do nothing on His own"? Why is this important?
2. The words of Jesus were recognized by others to be so different. The officers sent to arrest Jesus came back to the chief priest and Pharisees with the explanation "No one ever spoke like this man." (John 7:46). Why were the words of Jesus so noticeably different from everyone else?
3. From John 17:1-5, what was the work that Jesus was sent to do?
4. Identify interactions Jesus had with others that demonstrate who He was seeking to glorify?
5. Jesus accused the Pharisees of seeking glory from one another instead of the glory that comes from God. What were the Pharisees doing for Jesus to make such an accusation?
6. How does your interaction with others tell about who you are seeking to glorify?
7. Maybe you were like me this year and stole the glory that belonged to God for yourself. I am starting the year in repentance and trusting that God will give me another chance as I pursue the meaning of "minister" more deeply than 2019. What do you need to repent of as you start 2020?

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³⁰ “I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³¹ If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true. ³² There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true. ³³ You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. ³⁴ Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. ³⁵ He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. ³⁶ But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me. ³⁷ And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, ³⁸ and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. ³⁹ You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, ⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. ⁴¹ I do not receive glory from people. ⁴² But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. ⁴³ I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. ⁴⁴ How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? ⁴⁵ Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. ⁴⁶ For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. ⁴⁷ But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?” – **John 5:30-47**

“¹⁶ So Jesus answered them, “My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. ¹⁷ If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. ¹⁸ The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.” – **John 7:16-18**

“³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’ ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” – **John 13:31-35**

“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. ³ And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. 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.” – **John 17:1-5**