

"More Than a King"  
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"The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. So the Pharisees said to one another, 'You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.'" (John 12:12-19)

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Pastor Wally pointed out that what He did for Lazarus leads to Jesus being glorified. I read in John 11:39-40: "Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?'" (see John 11:25-27 "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.'") Jesus framed His question to Martha by saying "whoever believes..." and "everyone who lives..." If I've answered yes like Martha did to Jesus' question regarding whether I "believe this", do I believe that also means that I will "see the glory of God" as well? If so, how so? If not, why not?

Glory is defined in Webster's 1828 dictionary as being, "2. Splendor; magnificence. Matthew 6:29; 4. Praise ascribed in adoration; honor. Luke 2:9; 5. Honor; praise; fame; renown; celebrity; 8. The divine perfections or excellence. Psalm 19:1; Honorable representation of God. 1 Corinthians 11:8; 10. Distinguished honor or ornament; that which honors or makes renowned; that of which one may boast. Isaiah 13:9" How do I define the glory of God and why?

2 Corinthians 4:6 tells me "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (emphasis added). Spurgeon, speaking on this passage on September 7, 1879 said: "Never had the God of Abraham appeared so glorious as now. God in Christ Jesus had won the adoring wonder of the apostle's instructed mind. He had known Jehovah's glory as the One and only God, he had seen that glory in creation declared by the heavens and displayed upon the earth, he had beheld that glory in the law which blazed from Sinai and shed its insufferable light upon the face of Moses; but now, beyond all else, he had come to perceive

the glory of God in the face, or person, of Jesus Christ, and this had won his soul. This special knowledge had been communicated to him at his conversion when Jesus spoke to him out of heaven. In this knowledge he had made great advances by experience and by new revelations; but he had not yet learned it to the full, for he was still seeking to know it perfectly by the teaching of the divine Spirit..." In what way(s), if any, am I "still seeking to know [His glory] perfectly by the teaching of the divine Spirit"? Explain.

Spurgeon went on to say: "In our Lord Jesus we see the glory of God in the wondrous blending of the attributes. Behold his mercy, for he dies for sinners; but see his justice, for he sits as judge of quick and dead. Observe his immutability, for he is the same yesterday, today, and forever; and see his power, for his voice shakes not only earth but also heaven. See how infinite is his love, for he espouses his chosen; but how terrible his wrath, for he consumes his adversaries...Have you ever heard Christ's doctrine in your soul? If so, you have felt it to be divine, for your heart has perceived its moral and spiritual glory, and you have concluded that God is in it of a truth. Has your heart heard the voice of Christ speaking peace and pardon through the blood? If so, you have known him to be Lord of all... You have understood the union of the two titles, "God, our Savior." Beloved, you have often felt your Lord's presence, and you have been admitted into intimate communion with him. Then I know that a profound awe has crept over you that made you fall at his feet, and in the lowliest reverence of your spirit you have owned him to be Lord and God. But when he has bent over you in love and said, "Fear not"; when he has opened his heart to you and shown you how dear you are to him, then the rapture you have felt has been so divine that you have, beyond all question, known him to be God." How well do I understand "the wondrous blending of [His] attributes (e.g., His mercy and justice; His infinite love and His terrible wrath)? Explain.

Spurgeon then asked: "Why did not everybody see the glory of God in Jesus Christ when he was here? It was conspicuous enough. Answer: it matters not how brightly the sun shines among blind men. Now, the human heart is blind, it refuses to see God in creation except after a dim fashion, but it utterly refuses to discern God in Christ, and therefore he is the despised and rejected of men. Moreover, there is a god of this world, the prince of darkness, and since he hates the light he deepens and confirms the natural darkness of the human mind, lest the light should reach the heart. He blinds men's minds with error and falsehood and foul imaginations, blocking up the windows of the soul either with unclean desires, or with dense ignorance, or with pride." Do I need to get my "windows" cleaned? In what way(s), if any, has Satan blocked "up the windows of [my] soul with unclean desires, or with dense ignorance, or with pride"? Explain.

Lastly, Spurgeon spoke about my responsibility regarding His light...His glory. "Never is a gleam of light given to any man to hide away, and to spiritual men the great object of their lives, after they have received light, is to reflect that light in all its purity. You must not hoard

up the light within yourself; it will not be light to you if you do. Only think of a person when his room is full of sunlight saying to his servant, 'Quick, now! Close the shutters, and let us keep this precious light to ourselves.' Your room will be in the dark, my friend. So, when a child of God gets the light from Christ's face he must not say 'I shall keep this to myself,' for that very desire would shut it out. No, let the light shine through you; let it shine everywhere. You have the light that you may reflect it.... Consecrate your entire being to the making known among the sons of men the glory of Christ." So, in what way(s), if any, do I "reflect" His glory...His light to others...to my "Who's Your One"? Explain.

What in my life do I need to change so I will be a better "reflector" of Him and His glory to those around me and why?

John Piper said this about God's glory: "We don't add to his glory. So we want to make God's glory shine. We want to make it visible. "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). So the goal of my life should be to so live that when people know me well enough, they would say, "God is glorious!" Not "John is glorious," but "God is glorious!...I believe the glory of God is the going public of his infinite worth. I define the holiness of God as the infinite value of God, the infinite intrinsic worth of God...The public display of the infinite beauty and worth of God is what I mean by "glory," and I base that partly on Isaiah 6, where the seraphim say, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty. The whole earth is full of his—" and you would expect them to say "holiness" and they say "glory." They're ascribing "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty. The whole earth is full of his—" and when that goes public in the earth and fills it, you call it "glory." So God's glory is the radiance of his holiness, the radiance of his manifold, infinitely worthy and valuable perfections." Does this additional information change or further clarify my previous definition of God's glory? If so, how so? If not, why not?

Pastor Wally said that I shouldn't "love the glory that comes from man more than the glory from God which is Jesus Christ." How difficult is that for me to actually do and why?

In what way(s) is Jesus "more than a king" to me and why?