

HIS NAME'S SAKE

PSALM 23:3c

Pastor Duane Smets

- I. Forever Fame
- II. Foolish Fame
- III. Further Fame

It is great to be here with all of you today. If you are new or visiting, welcome. My name is Duane Smets. I'm one of four pastors here who all serve in equal authority under our head pastor, Jesus Christ the King.

My job each week is to read some of the words Jesus has given us in His book, do my best to explain them and then lead us to a place where we respond in worship and gratitude to Jesus because the greatness of message He has given to us in what it means for our very lives.

Ultimately, today all of us are gathered here for one reason and one reason alone. God. Some of us are here because of a commitment we made to God to be here and to worship Him on Sundays. Some of us are here for other reasons, like you're looking for a church, a friend invited you, or you just happened to show up because you were walking or driving by or whatever.

What we believe is that ultimately, underneath all of those sort of external reasons is there is an internal reason why we are all here. And that's God. We believe God is a God who draws us to Himself. That underneath the surface there is a longing and a recognition that what we need in our lives is God. So ultimately all of us are here, gathered today because of God.

The sermon title for today happens to be "For His Name's Sake." These four words come right out of our text in the Bible today from Psalm 23. As a church we are slowly working through this wonderful Psalm in the Bible and this week's line is "for His name's sake" so today we will be talking about the sake or fame of God's name.

To kind of see where and how it fits in Psalm 23 let's go ahead and read all three of the first verses of this Psalm. Would you go ahead and stand with me in honor of God's Word today. I'll read it, declare it as God's Word, then we can thank Him for it together and I'll pray.

Psalm 23:1-3

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

- Pastoral Declaration: This is the Word of the Lord.
- Congregational Response: Thanks Be To God.
- Pastoral Prayer

His name's sake. What is in a name and what does it mean for someone to do something for their name's sake?

A name. From the time we are born we are given a name which we learn to respond to others when called. It's one of the first things we ever learn.

As we grow older this name becomes the source and focus of our identity in how we introduce ourselves to people and it becomes attached to our personality, social standing, job and pretty much everything else in life. Our names are a big deal.

On Thursday this last week a man who was given the birth name Prince Rodger Nelson sadly died at the age of 57. Any Prince fans here?

If you haven't heard of Prince, he is one of the best selling music artists of all time. He won seven grammy awards, a golden globe, an academy award and was inducted in the Rock N Roll Hall of Fame in 2004.

One of his many many hits is a song titled, "My Name Is Prince." It's a song where in it he wrestles with who

he is, his identity, and what the point and purpose of his life is.

The song starts out with him singing,

My name is Prince and I am funky
My name is Prince the one and only

In the beginning God made the sea
But on the seventh day he made me
He was tryin' to rest y'all when He heard the sound
Sound like a guitar cold gettin' down
I tried to bust a high note, but I bust a string
My God was worried 'til he heard me sing

So he starts off on this pretty high kick, thinking he's pretty great. But then in the middle verse he says this,

My name is Prince and I am funky
When it come to funk I am a junky
I know from righteous I know from sin
I got two sides and they both friends

So here, there's this admission that he's all into himself and he knows there's something not good about that and he feels that tension and conflict.

Then in the third verse comes these lines,

My name is Prince, I don't wanna be king
Cuz I've seen the top and it's just a dream
Big cars and women and fancy clothes
Will save your face but it won't save your soul

Prince had more money and more freedom than most of us could ever dream of. When this song came out it quickly hit the top forty. Shortly after it did Prince changed his name to a symbol he called the "love symbol."

Prince's life and career in many ways epitomizes the human struggle for identity, desire for recognition, and what to do with one's name.

What I want to present and walk through today with all of you is how that struggle and pursuit can only truly be satisfied when its motivation and goal is to make much of and enjoy the name and being of God.

To help us see that I've got three points: Forever Fame, Foolish Fame, and Further Fame.

I. Forever Fame

In our first point today, "Forever Fame", I want to try and convince you that God and His name is superior, because it has a forever, or eternal, or matchless quality to it. This is actually a pretty big thinking point that may tax our brains a bit. This isn't so much a feeling point as a thinking hard point. So you guys ready to do some thinking?

Okay, here we go. In the very first sermon of our series we went in depth into the the name of God as it is presented in the first two words of Psalm 23, "The LORD." We talked about how whenever we see all capitals L-O-R-D in our English Bibles that it is an indicator telling us that in the original Hebrew language it was written in, this is God's special name He gave for Himself, Yahweh.

God has many many names in the pages of the Bible and each of them uniquely emphasizes a particular or special aspect of His character. For example God is also named, Almighty, Most High, Everlasting, Father, Holy, Jealous, Wonderful Counselor, Redeemer, King, Provider, Rock, Healer, Peace, Word, Redeemer, and many others.

But these are all names for God people in the Bible used to describe God. Yahweh, or LORD in our Bible, is

the one name God gave for Himself. So it sort of sits on top of all the other names.

The meaning of this name Yahweh is I AM or I be. He is the actual true and always will be and as such He is the source of all and the essence of all in maximus. One way to look at this name is that He is all the qualities those other names ascribe to Him to the 'nth' degree. So He is infinitely mighty, infinitely holy, infinitely king.

There is no one, nothing, no name which compares to the name of God. And there are dozens and dozen of passages in the Bible which consistently tell us this. I'll give us just a smattering few.

1 Samuel 12:22 "The Lord will not forsake his people, for his great name's sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for himself."

Psalms 106:8 "He saved them for his name's sake, that he might make known his mighty power."

Psalms 115:11 "Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!"

Isaiah 48:11 "For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another."

Ezekiel 36:22 "Thus says the Lord God: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name."

The most famous prayer in all of human history, the Lord's Prayer, given from the lips of Jesus the son of God Himself begins with the line, Matthew 6:9 "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name." It's a prayer that the name of God would be revered, honored and worshipped.

God's name is a big deal. It's actually the third commandment in the ten commandments that God wrote Himself in stone, Exodus 20:7 "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain." Sounds like God cares about the fame of His name a lot.

John Piper, in his book, *The Pleasures of God* has a chapter titled, "The Pleasure of God in the Fame of His Name." Here's what he says,

"Fame means well-known name. His name is who he really is, especially, who he is for us. God delights in being known for who he really is. He loves a worldwide reputation... The name of God refers to his reputation, his fame, his renown. This is the way we use the word 'name' when we say someone is making a name for himself. Or we sometimes say, that's a 'name' brand. We mean a brand with a big reputation... God's zeal for his fame to be spread bursts out in the Scriptures again and again. He wants his fame to be spread to all the peoples of the world."

Okay. That's a big point. So let's pull back a second and ingest that. Essentially, what these passages from the Bible are telling us and what Piper just explained for us is that God is extremely, extremely, extremely self-centered. That God is first and foremost and always more about pursuing His own fame, reputation, praise... than anything or anyone else. Basically God is an egomaniac off the charts.

Let that sink in.

God is first and foremost always about God. God is God-centered.

How does that sit? Does that seem right to you? Does that make you feel uncomfortable?

If so, why do you think that might be? I get it. I feel you. I think there is something inside us that when we hear about being selfish and self-centered we automatically know there's something about it that's not quite right. That it's not for us. That it's not good for us. Probably because deep down we know the truth, that we really are not that great.

But here's the thing. Not so with God. Deep down, deep deep deep down, God really is that great. And if He is than He is the one being, in all of existence for whom it is the most right thing for Him to be extremely self-

centered. So much so, that it would be wrong for Him not to be.

Because if He were not self-centered, then He'd be lying and there would be something greater than God and if there were something or someone greater than God than that's who we should be worshipping. Not Him.

Is this making sense? See I told you you'd have to think hard on this point.

Let me quote Jonathan Edwards on this point. Jonathan Edwards is one of my heroes. Died in 1758. Not sure there will be too many people talking about Prince in 250 years, but lots of people still talk about Edwards. Many philosophy experts say he is the greatest academic America has ever produced.

Anyway, Edwards wrote several books. One of my favorites is a book titled, *The End For Which God Created The World*. It's basically about what God's chief goal is in all His activities. Heres' what Edwards says.

"If God be indeed so great and excellent that all other beings are as nothing to him, and all other excellency be as nothing and less than nothing and vanity in comparison to his, and if God be omniscient and infallible, and perfectly knows that he is infinitely the most valuable being, then it is fit that his heart should be agreeable to this - which is indeed the true nature and proportion of things, and agreeable to this infallible and all-comprehending understanding which he has of them, and that perfectly clear light in which he views them - that he should value himself infinitely more than his creatures."

Now that's a really long run on sentence, but you get it? Nothing, no one compares to God. And if God being all-knowing knows this, then it is exceedingly agreeable, right and dare I say wonderful that God values Himself and His name above all things.

Truly the ground of truth and the ground of joy must be found in God's eternal delight in Himself. We will never really broach true meaning and happiness until we come to see that and believe that because all other potential solutions will leave us looking to ourselves and what will inevitably find is we don't have it, we are not that great.

You see, I called this point, "Forever Fame" because God and God alone has the forever fame and that is what His name represents and why He calls everyone to worship Him. And He doesn't just call us to. He demands it. And it is exceedingly right for Him to do so. For His name's sake.

I'll end this point with a question. Assuming everything I just said is true then...will you have God as He is, as a God-centered God...or are you going to try to pull Him down to your level and only have Him as God if He is all about you?

Heavy question, I know. To let it sink in even more, let's move into our second point for today, "Foolish Fame" where I think we'll discover that most of us, no, all of us tend to do the latter, to pull God down and make Him a God who is all about us.

II. Foolish Fame

Let me start by re-reading one of the verses I already pulled up.

Isaiah 48:11 "For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another."

My glory I will not give to another. Here's the thing. We want the glory. And we live in a culture whose very structure, even financially, is built on the promoting the glory of individuals.

Here's some of the top, highest circulating magazines in our country:

People Magazine. Rolling Stone Magazine. ESPN Magazine. Time Magazine. Forbes Magazine. O Magazine.

Think about it. Everywhere we go. Billboards. Radio. TV. Movies. Stores. What do we see and hear everywhere? Images and sounds emphasizing people. Stars. We are constantly inundated with subtle messages that we all ought to seek our own glory and that getting glory is where it's at.

Why has American Idol been the most successful television show in history? Because of the dream of making it on the stage and becoming a star. Musicians. Athletes. Actors. Business men and women. Politicians. Everywhere everyone seeking glory.

I was playing basketball with a friend the other day. And we kept shooting three pointer shots and calling out 3-2-1 buzzer and hoping we made the shot. Why? Because we want to feel great, like the hero, we want to be a star.

Some of us are a little more realistic. We know becoming a nationally recognized star is probably a pipe dream. So we set our sights a little bit lower. And what the big way we do that today? You guys know where I'm going right? Social media.

We post pictures. We post quotes and clever phrases. We like other people's stuff and follow this and that. Why? Most of the time, maybe not all of the time...it's because we want other people to like us, we want them to see us and what we're doing, we want them to follow us and praise us.

And here's the really sick thing about it all. And don't get me wrong I'm complicit in this too. The really sick thing is what we present, most of the time, is a very carefully crafted image. We control what we post so that we will come across looking like this or that to other people. And a lot of the time...it's just a lie. It's just a cover up. Nobody posts about fighting with their spouse. Am I right? I'm not crazy on this am I?

The apostle John was one of Jesus homies. He hung out with Him for three years day in and day out and then wrote a book about the things he heard Jesus say and saw Him doing. In John chapter 12 he makes an interesting commentary on something he sees happening. Here it is. After hearing Jesus preach and teach he says,

John 12:42-43 "Many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God."

They loved the glory that come from man more than the glory that comes from God.

That's a piercing line. Or at least it ought to be.

Notice here. These guys...these authorities, are spiritual religious authorities. So they are like the pastors and deacons and church leaders. Being a Christian and being a church leader does not make one impervious to the temptation of pursuing one's own glory. In fact, sometimes it makes things worse.

JR Vasser, a pastor of a sister Acts 29 church in Texas wrote this book called, *Glory Hunger*. In it, Matt Chandler, the current president of our Acts 29 Network of churches writes the forward. Let me read to you what he wrote.

"I find in my heart an insidious desire to be recognized and applauded. I work hard, I have some natural gifting, and I want people to notice this and say something to me and to others about how awesome I am. Notice that I used the word awesome there. If I had typed the word glorious, then all of us would have raised an eyebrow. In fact, as I read over the sentence and replace the word awesome with glorious, I feel a sharp stab of conviction, and my legs feel weak, and I feel as though I am in danger. Glory is ultimately God's, and though I might reflect it, any glory I have is my Creator's not mine. We all possess legitimate glory hunger. I feel it in me, and it's broken badly.

I hate that the desire to be recognized and applauded is in me, and although it varies in intensity and frequency, I must constantly be aware of it so that I might, by the grace of God, suppress and confess it. In my saner moments I am well aware that I am fragile and that God has not made me the hinge upon which his kingdom will swing.

I am almost haunted by John 3:30 which says, 'He must increase, I must decrease,' and by Psalm 138:6 which says, 'Though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he knows from afar.' I want the fight within me to be over. I want to be aware of the pull in my heart toward being self-exalting and therefore God-belittling."

I'm so thankful for our president Matt Chandler's honesty. This sickness...glory hunger effect all of us. I've got it. I feel it right now, hoping you'll think this sermon is good and think I'm a great preacher. Oh and I'd love to be Matt Chandler one day. It's sick isn't it?

I want to dig at this a little more so we can see how engrained in us and in our culture it is. I am on a mission today to tear down this idol so that we might be able to see the glory of God shining in all its brilliance.

I think another section from JR Vassar's book "Glory Hunger" will help. He writes,

"Narcissism is an excessive concern with and overinflated view of oneself, an inordinate self-love and pre-occupation with one's own image and reputation. It is an egocentricism rooted in an exaggerated self-esteem that in reality is self-absorption.

We live in an 'I love me' culture...obsessed with the concept of self-love, and frankly, loving yourself more than anyone else. (Jean Twenge) from NBC put it this way, 'You may not realize it, but everyone is born with their one true love - themselves. If you like you, everyone else will too...loving yourself means knowing how great you are and not letting any person, any place, or any thing ever get in the way of that.'

In our culture, real emotional health begins with an unabashed love affair with oneself. The message you are being sold is that you are great, and you matter more than anyone else. (So we) forge an identity on our own, a horizontal self. We adopt world identities in an attempt to define ourselves...(but) the horizontal self is vanity."

The opposite of a horizontal self is a vertical self. One that does not look to the left or to the right but looks up to God.

Let me put it this way. Say you get everything you could ever want and dream of. I mean imagine it. Say all of your dreams and desires come true and you arrive. You have it.

Will that provide the longing of your heart?

No. No it won't. You'll end up like Prince saying, "I've seen the top and it's just a dream. Big cars and women and fancy clothes. Will save your face but it won't save your soul."

Your fame is a dead end. It's a foolish fame. It's foolish because it will not provide that which it promises. It can't. It can't because there is only one being in the entire universe who is big enough and good enough to receive that praise and be delighted in it...God. God. The Lord of existence. The perfect righteous and true one. The only one worthy of praise.

You see. Hear me. Your life is not about you. Your life is not about you. It's not about you. And if you make it about you, you will die. For sure physically one day. But even more than that you will die inside.

You were not built to receive glory and praise. That is not your purpose. You were made to praise and glorify God and will not be happy until the entirety of your life becomes all about doing just that.

Do you hear me? God help us.

Well...how do we do that? How do we make this transition where all of us might end up saying "we're just nobodies trying to tell people about somebody"? Let's pull this together in our final point for today, "Further Fame."

III. Further Fame

I called this point "Further Fame" because the solution to not seeking our own foolish fame is to instead working and living to spread or further the fame of God.

If God does all things for His name's sake and we should not do things for our name's sake, how do we along with God do all things for the sake of His name and fame?

First we must recognize this is what God in His Word has called us to. Two of my favorite verses in the whole Bible...

1 Corinthians 10:31 "Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

Colossians 3:17 "Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

So God rightly calls us to spread His fame along with Him, but we have a hard time with that because we are bent on wanting glory for ourselves. The way out of this begins with recognizing that something went awry in the course of human history and the course of human nature.

In the beginning when God created the first man and women, they happily enjoyed God and His goodness and gave Him glory. The turning point began, when Satan planted a seed of desire in their hearts thinking that God was somehow holding something back from them, which they would enjoy, namely having His glory.

Here's how it gets expressed. Genesis 3:15, "Then you will be like God." The desire to sit in the seat of God and get His praise and power. So the man and the woman go for it and quickly find out their human constitution was not made to handle such things and right away they feel guilt and shame.

What God does in response is launch a campaign we call human history, which gets recounted from His perspective in the Bible as a story, His story, history, wherein we see individuals and people groups over and over again, seeking their own glory and either failing or getting it and then falling apart because they can't handle it.

The story and the campaign finds its climax when God sends His son Jesus to earth. And what is unique about this point in the story is that Jesus is fully God. So Jesus, in His deity, rightly deserves all the glory and the praise. His name actually has that special Yahweh name in it. Jesus' name literally means Yahweh saves.

But Jesus veils His deity, most of the time. Most of the time He keeps it shielded. Every once in awhile He pulls back the cloth and lets His divine power and glory shine forth. Like when He commands the wind and the waves in a storm. Or when He is baptized and a voice speaks from heaven affirming Him. Or when He raises up a dead man back to life. But most of the time He lives and works and submits Himself to earthly human limitations.

What's important about that is we never see Jesus grabbing for glory. Even when He does good, amazing things, He always defers and gives the glory to God the Father. He had a right to seize the glory due to His name, but He doesn't.

The reason is Jesus came to succeed as a human where all the rest of us have failed. He didn't have to be poor but He submitted Himself to it. He didn't have use these weak disciples as His ministry team but He submitted Himself to it. He didn't have to go to the cross but He gave Himself to it. Again and again and again, where Jesus could have sought and demanded glory, He gave it up.

Mark 10:45 in the Bible captures this attitude and principle in Jesus' life well. "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

Jesus deserved to be served. But instead He chose to be the servant. So, this is what God did. Here's a good summary found in Philippians 2:5-10:

"Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Do you get it? Glory thieves are the ones who should be killed. Robbing God of the eternal glory due to His name is high treason of the worst kind. We should all be executed for it.

But, in order for us to see and come to learn and know just how great God is, that He is not only a powerful and mighty God but also a gracious God...He sends His Son as a servant, to be the most humble man who has ever lived, always deferring glory He rightly deserved, and then dying a death only glory thieves should die.

Because He did that, because He did that God raises Him up from the grave back to new life and now says, Jesus' name is the highest name of all. Anyone and everyone who wants to be saved out of the life of pursuing foolish fame can do so by calling on and making much of the name of Jesus.

Through Jesus we see true glory, we cast down our foolish crowns before His feet and we bow in worship, saying you are Lord Jesus. All glory and honor to your name Lord forever and ever!

Through Jesus we see that God really is the greatest God. The picture in Psalm 23 is of sheep being led by God the shepherd. What we have in Jesus is God being a good shepherd to the sheep no matter how bad they are. God doesn't blame the sheep. He cares about the credit due to His name and works to show off how good He is.

And that's what we need to see. The way to see the ultimate glory of God...the way out of seeking foolish fame is to look at Jesus. John Stott once said, "All of us have inflated views of ourselves, until we have visited a place called Calvary. It is there, at the foot of the cross, that we shrink to our true size."

At the cross of Jesus we see true glory and what it does in us when we truly see it, it makes us start automatically erupting with praise. When we see it...when we grasp it...then our hearts are changed and moved to start saying "glory to your name." Then what we want is for others, for as many people as possible to hear His name, know who He is, and believe in what He did for us.

To be a Christian very simply means to be a person who makes much of Jesus.

Doing that, telling others about Jesus is what the Bible calls mission. Our mission in life is to make much of God in the face of Jesus, both for ourselves and as many others that we can help live into the goodness of that reality.

We do that individually by building friendships with people and seizing opportunities to talk about Jesus and we do that strategically as a church by starting new churches. We call it church planting.

Today is a special day for us at The Resolved Church because today, after over three years of work, we are ready to send out and start a new church in our city. About four years ago God brought along a man named Chris Sandoval, who had a desire to plant a church, so he entered our church planter residency program here at The Resolved. And we've worked with Him in starting a church planting class where we now have 40 adults who have gone through it, had a pastoral interview and been recommended to go help this new work.

After this sermon, Chris is going to come up and tell us a little about the plant and then we're going to pray for him and his wife and his whole church planting team. It's an exciting day. I'll save the details and let him share those with you.

What I do want to do without making this sermon too much longer is help us see the connection that the purpose of planting churches is for His name's sake.

Tim Keller wrote a brief free downloadable article called, "Why Plant Churches?" which is very good and then he basically has a big book all about church and church planting called, "Center Church."

He basically gives four reasons why we should plant churches:

1. Jesus asked us to. It's in essence the call of the great commission and what Jesus meant for how we are to go about making disciples.
2. It was Paul and the early churches strategy for mission in how to reach people for Jesus as shown in the book of Acts and the other books of the New Testament.
3. It's statistically the best way to reach people who are not already involved in churches.

4. It renews the whole body of Christ, all the churches and displays kingdom-mindedness. Meaning it should bring joy and excitement to other churches and reminds us that it's not about any one particular church.

Now, all of those reasons are good reasons. I wholeheartedly agree and commend those reasons. We believe in church planting here at The Resolved for every one of those reasons, passionately.

But I have to be honest and tell you I think Keller explanation is lacking. I think the biggest reason is missing.

I'm a little nervous in saying that. To this day I've never heard of anyone saying they've found anything wrong with anything Tim Keller has ever said. Everyone loves the man. I do too. In church leadership circles he's like a really big deal.

But honestly, I think his explanation is lacking. And to my dismay I found it lacking in every other book I went to on this subject. I have a slew of books on the church and on church planting.

Here is what I found. In every book I have on the church, not one says anything about church planting. And in every book I have about church planting, not one says anything about doing it for the glory of God, for His name's sake.

It doesn't mean it isn't out there, maybe someone has said that in some book I don't have. But after what we've heard and seen today, shouldn't planting churches for the glory of God, for the spread of His fame, for His name's sake be at the top of the list? Shouldn't it?

I mean, Servant Church is planting in Barrio Logan, east of downtown San Diego. My heart's desire and prayer is that many many people, as many people as possible both there and throughout San Diego might come to hear and know the name of Jesus and that through Him they might come to believe that God is a great great God and that there is no other name worth living and giving your life for. Amen?!!!!

What I'm saying church, and this is where we'll end. Let's make all of our lives about furthering the fame of God's name. Whether it's to our own hearts, whether it's in our home with our families, whether it's at work in how we do our jobs and the conversations we have, whether it's in the fun times we enjoy in our city, or whether it's in the churches we plant....let's make much of God. Let's not seek foolish fame. Let's seek the fame of our Lord.

That's it. All I want to be is a sign with an arrow pointing up. Because I'm not great but Jesus is and in Him I see the face of our wonderful God.

Conclusion

Let's conclude. Today we've hit some hard stuff I know. For some of you I know what we've talked about either really stretched your mind or hit something deep in your heart. It's done both for me...it's made me re-think some things about my life and convicted me of some areas where I've been a glory thief.

We started out talking about Prince the musician who had it all. He reached the top of the mountain and found himself there all alone, empty and had lost his soul.

We ended today talking about a different prince, the prince of heaven, who had it all but laid it aside to come save us so we could see that there is someone better to live our lives for than just ourselves. Jesus went to the top of the mountain, alone and abandoned, but there He gained everything for us.

Now through Jesus we can see the glory of God and rejoice in it. Let's do that together by going to Him in prayer.