



Message Four – The Way of Glory

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During these past four weeks, we have been focusing our attention on an important, but disturbing truth: God's primary agenda is his own glory. It is important because this truth provides a framework for making sense out of life. It is disturbing because we want God's number one goal to be about us.

Today, we will bring this series to a conclusion as we consider our own lives in light of this truth.

Here I Am to Worship

Romans 11:33-36, *Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor? Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him? **For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.*** (NIV)

The whole sweep of all of life is summed up in these phrases:

From Him

Through Him

To Him

Our only reasonable response is to **worship**.

Romans 12:1, Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. (NIV)

"Therefore" is the hinge word of this passage.

Paul's appeal is made on the **basis** of something.

Worship When It's Hard

The Romans 12:1 response is easy when all is well, but what about when it is not.

The Lazarus Lesson

John 11:1-6, A man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha...the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days. (NIV)

"It" is for the glory of God. "It" was an **illness**.

God was going to leverage the pain and suffering in the life of someone he loved so that his glory would be revealed.

The Way of Glory

Matthew 26:39, 42, *Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."* He went away a second time and prayed, *"My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."* (NIV)

John 12:23-28 *Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds... "Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!"*