

close ; he knew his Father's mind, and came to reveal his will and purposes of mercy.

"Father, *the hour is come.*" The period had arrived when the sufferings and sacrifice of Christ would be accomplished ;—when the great propitiation would be made,—when the Lord our righteousness would be stricken, smitten of God and afflicted. The hour had come when the cry would be heard "awake a sword against my shepherd and against the man that is my fellow, smite the shepherd." The hour had come when the physical sufferings, and mental anguish of the Saviour, in consequence of our sins, would be exceedingly, nay unexpressibly severe. The hour had come when hell would be doing its utmost to crush the captain of our salvation. But the principalities and powers of darkness, did not then spoil him, he spoiled them, he conquered them, he triumphed over them. The hour for Jewish hate, and Roman power, and sin and Satan to do their death work, their deed of darkness, had come. Jesus knew all this, he felt all this, and he felt too in his inmost heart that it was the hour of dying victory and dying love. O reader, it was the hour when Jesus was in agony for you, when he suffered for you, when he was in darkness for you, when he loved you and gave himself for you. It was an hour which the sufferer shall never forget, and which shall doubtless be remembered for ever and ever by the redeemed in heaven, and the lost in hell.

But you will notice that our Lord not only speaks in his intercessory prayer of the hour that had come, he expresses an *earnest desire* in connection with the hour that had come. "Father, *the hour is come, glorify thy son.*" He did not pray to his Father to save him from falling into the hands of the ruffians who were about to apprehend him. He did not ask his Father to frustrate the plans of the Pharisees and chief priests who had plotted his condemnation and crucifixion. He did not ask his Father to send twelve legions of angels to destroy his foes ; No, but his prayer was, "Father, *glorify thy son.*" He felt no hatred in his heart to his bitterest enemies, he wished the pardon and salvation of those who with wicked hands put him to death, and that wish is implied in the prayer, "*Glorify thy son.*"

But how it may be asked could the Father glorify the Son, now that the hour of his crucifixion had come ? He could do this by accepting his Son's sufferings unto death as a perfect propitiation for the sins of the world. Jesus came to magnify his Father's