

That You May Believe – Gospel of John

John 17:1-26

"Jesus is Praying" – October 24, 2021



Introduction

When we hear someone's honest prayer, we get a glimpse into their heart: their priorities, values, and concerns. In John 17, we have the unique privilege of listening in as Jesus prays hours before He went to the cross. John 17 is sacred ground where we see Jesus' heart, His priorities, and His intimacy with the Father.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. Jesus prays for Himself. Vs 1-5
- II. Jesus prays for His followers. Vs. 6-19
- III. Jesus prays for the church. Vs. 20-26

Read & Discuss

1) Read 17:1-5

Jesus prays that God would glorify the Son so that the Son would glorify the Father. While Jesus has glorified the Father throughout His ministry, here, He is speaking of the cross. Jesus wants God's plan of redemption to be made visible so that we might be saved and have eternal life – a relationship with the Father that brings complete satisfaction now and forever. He became a man so that He could die for our sins and pay a debt that we could not. He will accomplish the work (vs. 4). That is the basis of eternal life. There is nothing we can add – it is by grace.

What comes to your mind when you consider Jesus' death on the cross? What changes do you need to consider or disciplines do you need to implement to know God better?

Additional Reading: John 19:30, Mark 10:45, John 10:28

2) Read 17:6-19

Jesus is making specific requests for those whom God has given to Him and who have believed in His name. Believers belong to the Father but are also a gift to the Son.

Jesus prays for

- Protection from disunity for his followers. He prays that we will be one!
- Protection from the evil one and how we relate to the world while living in the world.
- Sanctification (be set apart) by the Word of Truth to bear witness to the Truth. Just as Jesus bears witness to the truth, [\(John 18:37\)](#) we are sent into the world to bear witness of the good news of Jesus Christ.

Jesus' prayer for His followers is as important for us today as it was for them.

What are the things that unite us in Christ? How can that unity be demonstrated? How does God's Word help us overcome the lies of Satan?

Additional Reading: *Ephesians 1:4-6; 18, 1 Peter 2:9, Zephaniah 3:18, Romans 12:2, Habakkuk 2:14*

3) Read 17:20-26

Jesus prays for "those who *will* believe" or for US – the church today.

Jesus prays for

- Our unity to resound to His glory. True glory is the way of the cross: denying ourselves, putting the needs of others first, being a servant.
- Our witness to a watching world. A unified church that loves as Christ loved adorns the gospel.
- God to bring us home – that we may be with Him and see His glory. This glory we enjoy and see now, we see dimly but soon we will enjoy His glory face-to-face, in full unhindered enjoyment.

Jesus not only prayed for us then, but He intercedes for us now. When Jesus prays, God answers. God is faithful. That is our hope and assurance.

What are some ways you have seen God give you opportunities to reflect and share His glory by serving, forgiving and/or bearing up with others? How does comparing yourself to others destroy unity? What does it mean to you to know that Jesus is praying for you?

Additional Reading: *Philippians 2:5-11, Proverbs 19:11, John 13:34-35, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Hebrews 7:25*

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

***Next week's sermon text:** we turn to [Romans 8:18-30](#) "Salvation, Past, Present, Future"