

# The Gospel of John Pt. 26

## John 17:1-26

### Big Idea

Whether good times or bad, Jesus intercedes according to His knowledge and good will on our behalf.

### Exposition – John 17:1-26

Matthew and Luke record what is known as “The Lord’s Prayer” which Jesus meant to serve as a pattern by which we should pray. But, this prayer here in John 17 is the sweet, intimate, powerful, and personal prayer of Jesus to the Father. This prayer, known as the “High Priestly Prayer”, makes up the entire 17<sup>th</sup> chapter and is divided into three basic parts: Jesus’ prayer for Himself, His prayer for the apostles, and His prayer for all future believers (the church).



| High Priestly Prayer               |                                   |   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| For Himself                        | For the Apostles                  | For Future Believers                      |
| The glory of the Cross (V1,2)      | For their knowledge (V6-9)        | For their unity (V20-23)                  |
| The essence of eternal life (V3,4) | For their perseverance (V10-12)   | For their future presence w/ Him (V24,25) |
| His glory with the Father (V5)     | For their joy (V13)               | For full divine love to be in them (V26)  |
|                                    | For their sanctification (V14-17) |   |
|                                    | For their mission (V18,19)        |   |

### 1. Jesus Prays for Himself (V1-5)

- A. (V1) – the narrative of Jesus’ life has been pointing to this moment all along and now it has arrived, “Father, the hour has come...”. It has been said that every drop of ink in the Old Testament points to Jesus and every drop of ink in the Gospels points to His Cross. For over three years the gospel writers used phrases like “His hour had not yet come” to describe the events of Jesus’ life. This is the zenith of His work!
- Jesus’ words indicate His desire for the Father to receive glory through the Son receiving glory. It really is magnificent – God’s design for His greatest glory to come through an event so brutal, for life to come out of death...
- B. (V2) – This verse echoes what we have heard from John and other gospel writers before (John 3:35; 5:21-22; Matt 28:18) in that Jesus has been given all authority in calling and in judgment. The doctrine of God’s sovereignty is absolutely central to the Christian faith.
- Further, this verse shows us the order of the Holy Trinity. Jesus humbled Himself by leaving the glory of heaven to take on flesh and dwell among us (Jn 1:14); Jesus is equal to the Father, but according to the divine ordering of the Trinity, does everything that the Father gives Him to do (Jn 5:19-21); the Father is glorified by the fact that He sent forth Jesus, the Son, to the cross to bring eternal life to many (Jn 17:2, 4).
- C. (V3) – This is one of ten mentions of “eternal life” in John’s gospel. It is important to see that Jesus doesn’t describe eternal life in chronological or quantitative terms, but in qualitative terms. It begs these questions: (1) If the gift of redemption in Jesus were eternal but devoid of God’s presence, would it be desirable? (2) Of the gifts of redemption, which is more precious, eternity or abundance?

- D. (V5) – According to the divine ordering of Christ’s ministry in light of the Trinity; Jesus has submitted Himself to the will of the Father. The divine servant, Jesus, now requests that He and the Father share in a sense of oneness that would bring glory to them both, as it was in eternity’s past. Wow!

## **2. Jesus Prays for the Apostles (V6-19)**

- A. (V6-8) -- As Jesus transitions to pray for His Disciples, soon to be Apostles, He communes with the Father in prayer by summarizing a process that has come to pass in the lives of His Disciples in their ascent in the faith. Here is how it looks in outline form:
1. Jesus manifested the Father to a select group of men whom the Father selected V(6a).
  2. These men kept the Father’s word by proving the sovereign will of the Father (V6c).
  3. They have grown in faith to see the divine will of the Father in the Son (V7).
    - Jesus gave them the Father’s words; the Disciples received and understood; that understanding led to their belief (V8).
- B. (V9-10) – Jesus clarifies that His requests are for this select group of men, rather than a general prayer for all of mankind. Jesus goes on to acknowledge that His requests is consistent with the will of the Father because it was for these that the Father sent the Son to begin with. The oneness of the Father and Son is undeniable.
- C. (V11-12) – Jesus sees that He will soon depart earth and His disciples will be left to deal with life’s troubles without His material presence. So, Jesus prays that the Father would work in the disciples’ lives in such a way that they would abide in unity with God.
- D. (V13-15) – Jesus understands the human condition fully. His nature as fully God / Fully man informs His understanding of the challenges the disciples will face. The world will hate them because of their identity with Jesus so Jesus asks that the Father will give them His joy fully and to protect them from Satan while they remain on Earth on mission from Jesus.
- E. (V16-19) -- To be sanctified is to be separated or set apart for a particular purpose or use. The Disciples have been sanctified by being made “other-worldly” by their faith in Christ. The fact that Jesus notes that the disciples are not of this world is a sanctification of itself. Jesus asks the Father for further sanctification, sanctification by the word of truth.
1. Jesus indicates that faith alone is not enough to insure that His Disciples will not be affected by the “evil one”. Yes, they are born again, but now they will need to stand strong by living life according to the truth, power, and wisdom of the Word of God.

## **3. Jesus Prays for the Church (V20-26)**

- A. (V20-23) – Jesus transitions once more. Now He extends His prayer beyond the Disciples to all believers that will come in the future through the ministry of the Apostles. Jesus asks the Father to grant them unity and oneness.
1. Unity – In context, unity should be understood to mean that there be agreement among the future believers about the way and will of God and their mission in the world.
  2. Oneness – Should be understood to communicate the idea habitation of the Father in the Son and the Son in the believers. Not only that they would agree on purpose and truth, but that they would share and indwell each other. This is what real Christian communion is. It is not just mere proximity in thought, but actual indwelling in spirit.
- B. (V24-26) – Jesus’ fullest glory will not be seen until heaven. Jesus asks the Father to grant that all who believe be united with Him for that purpose. This glory is evident in Jesus’ eternal relationship to the Father and in priority over creation.
- Jesus closes by acknowledging that He alone has known the Father and now He asks that in response to the Disciples belief, they be filled with the Father’s love.