

THE LORD'S PRAYER (JOHN 17)

OPEN: Today, we step inside the “prayer closet” with Jesus. We will listen in as He talks with His Father.

- Some have called this chapter, “the holies of holies.”
- Like Moses at the burning bush, we find ourselves on holy ground.
- Although **Matthew 6:9-13** and **Luke 11:2-4** is often referred to as the Lord’s prayer... “**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...**” this is actually the model prayer...it provides a pattern or elements to include in your prayer.
- Our passage today is actually the Lord’s prayer...a discussion between Jesus and His Father just hours before the crucifixion.
 - o It is the last prayer of a “dying man” and worthy of our attention.
- Jesus is walking to the Garden of Gethsemane...He has been talking to His followers and now He talks to His Father.
 - o He opens His prayer with “Father.”
- ✓ **John 17:1 (NLT)** – **After saying these things, Jesus looked up to Heaven and said, Father...**
- ✓ Nowhere in the O.T. is God ever referred to as Father.
- ✓ The term for God often used was Yahweh. It was so sacred that it was never spoken except by the High Priest on the Day of Atonement when he went into the Holy of Holies.
- ✓ When scribes were copying the O.T. scriptures and they came upon that name in the text, they would stop, wash their hands, select a new quill (pen), write the name, discard the quill and continue their work.
- ✓ Jesus enjoyed referring to God as His Father...He used it 53 times in John, Chapters 14-17, more than 120 times in the Gospel of John.

- ✓ The only time He didn't refer to God as His Father was when He bore our sins on the cross and He said: **My God, my God why have you forsaken me? (Matthew 27:46)**
- ✓ Why the change? Because the intimacy (closeness) between the Father and Son had been broken.

❖ Read **John 17:1-5**

- The difficult hour for which Christ had come to earth had arrived...He would be betrayed, beaten, accused by men and crucified.
- ✓ His desire...glorify the Father...complete the work, accomplish the assignment. **(vs. 4)**
- ✓ Make available eternal life to mankind...
 - Eternal life is more than life that never ends, goes on and on = duration...even the wicked will live forever.
 - Eternal life is knowing God...the word is “ginasko” ...and it's more than knowing cold hard facts...to know by experience...to enter into a relationship with another and grow close.
 - Jesus makes it possible for sinful man to know the sinless God.
 - There is within mankind a vacuum (emptiness) that neither pleasure nor possessions can satisfy...only a personal relationship with the Creator gives true purpose and meaning to life.
- ✓ The fact that God knows and accepts those who are given eternal life **(vs. 2)** does not negate other scriptures that indicate we will be held responsible for our choice to receive or reject Christ.
- ✓ **(vs. 5)** Jesus looked forward to sharing the glory that He enjoyed with the Father (before the world began...before His incarnation [**Philippians 2:7**]).

❖ Jesus prayed for His men and for us...He asked the Father to give us:

1) **SECURITY (JOHN 17:6-12).** *(PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)*

- Jesus had invested His life over the last three years into these men...He revealed the Father to them...passed on the message of eternal life to them.
 - ✓ They would be staying behind in the world...Jesus would be going home to the Father.
 - ✓ (vs. 11) **protect them by the power of your name...**
 - We are secure in Christ...God does the keeping.
 - Religion is man hanging on to God but Christianity is God holding on to man.
- Charles Stanley in his book, “Eternal Security” wrote:
“If Christ came to seek and to save that which is lost and yet somehow we can become unsaved...and therefore undo what Christ came to do...wouldn’t it be wiser for God to take us home to heaven the moment we are saved in order to insure we make it? Isn’t is risky to force us to stay here?”
- ❖ Our security is not based on our ability to keep some commitment we have...we are kept by the power of God.
 - You might be thinking...what about Judas? Jesus answered that question in vs. 12.
 - ✓ He didn’t lose his salvation, he never had it.
 - ✓ It is possible to be in church but not in Christ.
 - ✓ Judas’ betrayal and eternal destruction was of no surprise to Jesus.
 - This may seem dangerous...doesn’t once saved always saved become an excuse or license to sin?
- ❖ Jesus prayed for our:

2) **PURITY (JOHN 17:13-19).** *(PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)*

- The word sanctify (*vs. 17 NKJV*) means to be set apart unto God...it doesn't mean sinless perfection.
 - ✓ We live in this world but we are not to become contaminated by this world.
 - ✓ Howard Hendrix: "The more like this world you become, the less you will impact it for Jesus Christ."
 - ✓ We are ambassadors of Heaven...we represent godly values...we belong to the Family of God.
 - ✓ The Holy Spirit is my guide, may I do nothing that would dishonor my country.
 - ✓ Purity is pursued by immersing my heart and saturating my mind in truth (*vs. 17 make them holy by your truth*) and recognizing my assignment...one sent into the world by Christ (*vs. 18*).
 - Regardless of our vocation none of us are on permanent vacation...we are to carry out the work of Christ on earth.

❖ Optional: Guidelines for Christian living:

- Don't just do what is good, do what is best.
- Ask yourself: will this strengthen my walk with Christ?
- Does my behavior represent God to a lost world?
- Does my life cause a weaker believer to stumble or does it strengthen them?
- Has my life become so wrapped up in worldly (temporary) pursuits that I have little or no time for godly (eternal) pursuits?

❖ Jesus prays we live, lives that are pure and holy.

Lastly, Jesus prays for our:

3) **UNITY** (JOHN 17:20-26). *(PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)*

- Don't confuse unity with uniformity...we are called to make disciples...not duplicate ourselves.
 - ✓ Unity is based on truth...the truth found in God's word.
 - ✓ Our common denominator is Christ; our textbook – the word of God; our purpose is to bring the lost to Christ and teach them the scriptures.
- ❖ We need to be unified as a church (little c).
 - We also need to cooperate with the big C-Church when possible...
 - ✓ Let's work together with those who preach the Gospel and agree with the essential doctrines.
 - ✓ We are not supposed to compromise scriptural truths for the sake of unity.
 - If we stand for nothing then truth doesn't matter.
 - For there to be unity in the church we will have to forgive one another, put aside our personal preferences, exercise compassion, honesty, serve and pursue the truth.
 - ✓ When we do this...the world will know that God the Father sent His Son and the Son wants them with Him in Heaven one day (vs. 24).
- ❖ Let's not just "live in the same house" let's love one another and work together!

CLOSE: Jesus prayed for:

- The security of salvation. Do you know that you're saved?
- Our purity in the world. Are you living like you belong to the family of God?
- The unity of His people. Are you getting along with your brothers and sisters in Christ and cooperating for the greater good of God's kingdom?

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