

A Prayer Prayed By Jesus

Text : **John 17: 1-26** (Read ... 11-26)

INTRODUCTION :

A. Jesus was given to prayer.

1. **Luke 18: 1** ... He urged all men to pray without ceasing.
2. He liked to pray alone.
 - a. **Mark 1:35**- Early ... He went away to a secluded place, and was praying there.
 - b. He taught us to do the same. ... **Matt. 6: 6**
3. He often spent many hours praying.
 - a. **Luke 6: 12** ... He prayed all night.
 - b. **Matt. 14: 23** ... He often spent several hours in prayer.

B. He gave us a general formula for prayer. (Often called “The Lord’s Prayer”)

1. **Matt. 6: 9-13**
2. That pattern taught us :
 - a. Prayer is more about worship than about one’s self.
 - b. Prayer is not a key to the treasury of Heaven.
 - c. Prayer is for those who have a faith relationship with God. *“Our Father”*

C. In today’s text, John records for us a prayer prayed by Jesus.

1. As we begin our study, we must remember the purpose of the bible.
 - a. The scriptures were written to reveal God’s plan for saving man.
 - b. The word of God will teach people how to be saved. ...
James 1:21 - **Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.**
 - c. Once a person’s faith has led him to a saved relationship with God, the holy scriptures give him all he needs to know to maintain that saved relationship.
II Pet. 1: 2-3 **Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.**
 - d. The bible is not a history book. (**What history it contains is accurate.**)
2. Thus, we don’t look to this passage as a transcript of every word spoken by Jesus.
 - a. John gave us that which would accomplish His purpose.

b. We remember that his purpose was to create faith in his readers.

John 20: 30-31 Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name. (Cf.- **21: 25**)

Since this particular prayer was selected to be recorded for us, we are aware that it contains a message for us. Thus, let us seek to learn what Jesus is communicating to us.

I. Let us first establish the context of the prayer :

A. “Any text taken out of context becomes nothing more than a pretext.”

1. No one has the right to take scriptures out of context even to teach truth.
2. If we have no clear verse, we have no doctrine.
3. However, it takes only one properly applied verse to establish a doctrine as truth.

B. This prayer is prayed in the upper room at the last supper.

1. Only His followers were present. (**Like the assembly**)
2. It comes after :
 - a. The washing of the disciples’ feet.
 - b. He told them about his upcoming death.
 - c. Jesus promised that they would have a home in Heaven.
 - d. Us parable of the vine to instruct them to stay faithful and keep working.
 - e. He forewarned them that they would be hated because of Him.
 - f. Chapter **16: 1** the John clarifies that Jesus is telling them these things so they won’t stumble.
 - g. He tells them that they will be scattered, the helper will come to enable them.
3. After the prayer they go out to the garden where Jesus is betrayed. (**communion**)

C. This is a public prayer spoken in the upper room.

1. Therefore, it was meant to be heard by His followers.
2. Jesus took the hearers into consideration when praying publicly.

John 11: 42- I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me.
3. Thus, it communicated to the hearers as well as to God. (**It was a teaching tool.**)

II. What are we supposed to learn from this prayer ?

A. Read ... Vs. 1-3

1. Vs. 1 ... All that we are given **by** God we are given to use **for** God's glorify.
2. Vs. 2 ... Christians are a gift to Christ. (**Compare ... Vs. 6**)
 - a. Salvation is a gift to man. (**Rom. 6:23**)
 - b. Saved men are a gift to God.
3. No selfish requests; prayers aren't granted when they are selfishly motivated.
 - a. **James 4:3-** **You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.**
 - b. Servants seek to pleasure and profit of their Master not their own.
4. Vs. 3 ... Jesus expresses His desire to give eternal life to all who receive Him.
 - a. **John 3: 15-17** ... God gave His Son so man can have eternal life.
 - b. **Matt. 1: 21** ... That is the specific reason Jesus came to the earth.
5. Vs. 3 ... Eternal life is having a relationship with God
 - a. One can only have that relationship through faith.
 - b. Vs. 25 ... **"The world has not known Thee."** (God) **Thus, no eternal life.**

B. Read ... Vs. 4

1. How is God glorified on the earth ? **Doing what He wants done.**
2. **Eph. 2: 10** ... Christians are created in Christ to do specific works for God.
3. **Rom. 6: 16-17** ... The act of being freed from sin enslaves one to righteousness.
4. **II Cor. 5: 14-19** ... When one is reconciled; he is given the ministry of reconciliation.
 - * **One's relationship with God cannot be separated from his life on earth.**

C. Read ... Vs. 5-8

1. ALL souls belong to God.
 - a. **Ezek. 18: 4**
 - b. **Psalms 24: 1**
2. Those who were given to Christ are those have faith in His redeeming gospel.
3. That faith (*salvation*) comes to them via the word.
 - a. **Rom. 10: 17-** **So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.**
 - b. **Acts 11: 4-** ... **he will speak words to you by which you will be saved, ...**

D. Read ... Vs. 9-10

1. There is a very special relationship between God, Christ, and believers.
2. We never pray that people of the world will be saved IN THEIR SIN.
3. When Christians maintain that special relationship with God He is glorified.
 - *a. **The conduct of the children always reflect on the whole family.**
 - b. This is why Paul implored us to “to walk in a manner worthy of the calling.” **Eph 4:1**
 - c. Jesus instructed us to :
 - Matt. 6:16- Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.**

E. Read ... Vs. 11-13

1. Jesus prays for the preservation of the faith of all His followers.
2. He guards those that are His.
 - a. **He did not die to save you only to have to fall again.**
 - b. **II Thes. 3: 3- The Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.**
 - c. **I Pet. 1: 5- who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**
3. He wants us to rejoice in the knowledge of our eternal destiny. (**Not live in fear.**)

F. Read ... Vs. 14-16

1. WHY will the world hate the righteous?
 - a. **John 15: 19- If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.**
 - b. **I John 3: 13- Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you.**
 - c. The world loves it's own, but we're no longer its own. (**Divorced Satan**)
2. The very word “**church**” (*ekklesia*) means those who are called out or separated.
3. We've been called out and made different as a result of having received God's word.

G. Read ... Vs. 17-19

1. To “**sanctify**” (*hagiazō*) means “to separate from profane things and dedicate to God.”
2. Christians are called out and set aside from the world by the word of God.
3. Jesus sanctified Himself in order to be able to sanctify His followers, **i.e.,** Christians.

4. Christians are sanctified by the word of God, the bible.
 - a. **II Thes. 2:14** ... Christians are called out by the word.
 - b. **I Thes. 2:1** ... Specifically, Christians are called by the gospel. (**I Cor 15:1ff**)
 - c. **James 1:18- He brought us forth by the word of truth,** (See .. **Acts 20: 32**)
 5. Vs. **18** ... Jesus separated us out **for** a work. (**Eph. 2:10 - created for work**)
 - a. Jesus gave us the very same assignment HE was given.
 - b. Jesus came to the earth to save people from their sins. **Matt. 1:21**
 - c. The ministry of Jesus was to seek and to save lost people. **Luke 19:10**
 - d. **Matt. 20: 28- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.** (Cf.- **Mk 1:38**)
- H. **Read ... Vs. 20-21**
1. The result of our being given the ministry of Jesus is that people will believe.
 2. The **word** that we share must convince people that Jesus is the Son of God.
 3. For this to occur we must share words with people, not just set a good example.
- I. **Read ... Vs. 22-23**
1. Our relationship with God affects people's willingness to accept the gospel.
 - a. When we are just like others, people are not challenged to seek God.
 - b. The peace and joy of the Christians should draw people to God.
 - c. Example alone cannot teach, but it can cause people to reject the message.
 2. Our common love should be apparent to the casual observer.
 - a. If someone has to ask, love is not there.
 - b. **Remember ... John 13: 34-35** (**It was give on this same occasion.**)
- J. **Read ... Vs. 24-26**
1. Jesus wants us to know that God loves us.
 2. He wants us to know that both He and the Father want us to be with Them in Heaven.
 3. Jesus wants us to love like He loves and like the Father loves.
 - a. Unconditionally
 - b. Eternally
 - c. Sacrificially
 4. Love does not negate the righteousness and the justice of God.

CONCLUSION :

A. Notice the heart of Jesus in this prayer :

1. It was not all about Himself. (**Even knowing He was about to die.**)
* **On his deathbed a man told his daughter he was still praying for her soul.**
2. That which Jesus prayed for Himself was in regard to the Father's goals and us.
3. He was concerned about our remaining faithful under pressure.
4. He was concerned about our being conscientious about our assignment from God.
5. He was anxious that we would be successful in bringing lost souls to Him.
6. He was desirous that we would be with Him in Heaven.

B. We can gain much from this prayer :

1. It teaches us about the heart of our Lord.
 - a. Reassuring of His love
 - b. Encouraging to faithfulness
2. It gives us a pattern for public prayer.
3. It motivates us to try harder to be what Jesus wants us to be. (**Soul-winners**)

INVITATION :

A. Jesus wants you in Heaven with Him.

1. Have you received the gospel in faith ?
2. Have you let it be implanted firmly in your heart ?
3. Have you obeyed it ?

B. You are invited to do so now