

Summary

This profound exploration of Jesus' High Priestly Prayer in John 17 reveals something extraordinary: we're invited behind the veil to hear the intimate conversation between Father and Son on the night before the crucifixion. As the disciples grappled with Jesus' words about having peace despite tribulation, they were given the ultimate gift—the ability to listen as Jesus intercedes for them, for us, and for all who would believe. What emerges is a comprehensive yet brief prayer that reminds us prayer's power isn't measured in length but in alignment with God's will. Jesus prays first for himself, not selfishly, but that He might glorify the Father through His impending sacrifice. We discover that eternal life isn't merely endless existence but knowing God personally and knowing Jesus Christ whom He sent. This prayer confronts us with the staggering reality of what Jesus surrendered—leaving the glory of heaven to be born into our degraded world. The Christmas season takes on deeper meaning when we consider not just the manger but the throne room He left behind. Through passages from Romans 8, Isaiah 26 and 53, Philippians 2, and others, we see that Jesus' sacrificial mindset becomes the model for our own lives. As we approach communion, we're reminded that we face a choice between two eternal mindsets: the sacrificial mind of Christ or the suicidal mind of Judas. God's heart, revealed throughout Scripture, desires all to be saved and come to knowledge of the truth. The question communion poses isn't whether God wants us saved—He does—but whether we'll embrace the mind of Christ and allow His intercession to transform our lives.

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Points

Title: The Prayer of Glory: Jesus' Intercession for His Disciples and His Church

Sermon Summary:

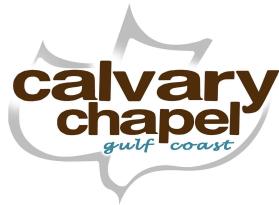
This sermon provides an in-depth exploration of Jesus' high priestly prayer in John 17, offered on the night before His crucifixion. The message emphasizes that Jesus' primary purpose was to glorify the Father, and through His prayer, we gain insight into the mind of Christ and His ongoing intercession for believers. The sermon highlights that eternal life is defined as knowing God and Jesus Christ whom He sent, and that this relationship is secured through Christ's sacrificial work on the cross. The pastor emphasizes that despite tribulation in the world, believers can have peace and be of good cheer because Jesus has overcome the world. The message confronts listeners with the choice between having the sacrificial mind of Christ or the selfish, suicidal mind of Judas who betrayed Him. Communion is presented as a reminder of Christ's mindset for us and our response to Him, calling believers to present themselves as living sacrifices with the mind of Christ.

Key Points:

- The impact of prayer is not determined by its length; Jesus' comprehensive prayer takes less than five minutes to read
- Jesus prays for Himself first, but only to glorify the Father, setting an example for our prayer priorities
- Eternal life is defined as knowing God and Jesus Christ whom He sent (John 17:3)
- Jesus has authority over all flesh and controls all events pertaining to His crucifixion
- In Jesus' mind, His crucifixion was already accomplished even before it occurred
- Jesus left His place in eternal glory to submit Himself to degradation on the cross for our salvation
- Believers can have peace and be of good cheer despite tribulation because Jesus has overcome the world
- Jesus makes intercession for us at the right hand of the Father (Romans 8:34)
- Having the mind of Christ means having a sacrificial mindset rather than a selfish one
- God desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:3-4)
- There are only two eternal mindsets to choose from: the sacrificial mind of Christ or the suicidal mind of Judas
- Communion confronts us with the choice of whether we will have the mind of Christ

Scripture References:

- John 17:1-26 (primary focus)
- John 16:33
- Romans 8:27-39
- Isaiah 26:3-12
- Isaiah 53:4-11
- Hebrews 12:1-2



- Matthew 23:14
- John 11:41-42
- Philippians 2:1-11
- 1 Corinthians 2:12-16
- Romans 12:1-2
- Luke 22:14-23
- Matthew 26:24
- 1 Timothy 2:3-4
- 2 Peter 3:9

Stories:

- The narrative of Jesus in the upper room with His disciples on the night before His crucifixion
- The account of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11), where Jesus lifted His eyes to heaven in prayer
- The betrayal of Judas at the Last Supper and his subsequent suicide
- Reference to the wedding at Cana (John 2) where Jesus said "My hour has not yet come"
- The pastor's personal anecdote about learning the mnemonic device "Gentiles Eat Pork Chops" to remember the order of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians
- Reference to the angels descending at Jesus' birth (Luke 2) crying "Glory to God in the highest"
- The basin and towel event from John 13 where Jesus washed His disciples' feet



Scripture

Scripture References from the Sermon

Explicitly Mentioned and Read:

1. **John 17:1** - Starting verse
2. **John 16:33** - "In me you may have peace... I have overcome the world"
3. **Romans 8:27-39** - Intercession, God's elect, nothing can separate us from God's love
4. **Isaiah 26:3-12** - Perfect peace, trust in the Lord
5. **John 17:1-26** - The entire High Priestly Prayer (read in full)
6. **Matthew 23:14** - Woe to scribes and Pharisees for long prayers
7. **John 2** - Wedding at Cana, "My hour has not yet come"
8. **Daniel 9** - Prophecy timeline (alluded to)
9. **Revelation 13:8** - Lamb slain from the foundation of the world
10. **Isaiah 53:4-11** - Suffering servant prophecy
11. **Hebrews 12:1-2** - Author and finisher of our faith
12. **Luke 2** - Angels at Jesus' birth
13. **Revelation 4-5** - Heavenly glory (alluded to)
14. **John 11:41** - Jesus lifting eyes to heaven at Lazarus' tomb
15. **Philippians 2:1-11** - Mind of Christ, humility of Christ
16. **1 Corinthians 2:12-16** - Mind of Christ, spiritual discernment
17. **Romans 12:1-2** - Present bodies as living sacrifice, renewing of mind
18. **Luke 22:14-22** - Institution of communion/Lord's Supper
19. **Matthew 26:24** - "Woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed"
20. **Matthew 24** - Hell created for devil and his angels (alluded to)
21. **1 Timothy 2:3-5** - God desires all to be saved, one mediator
22. **2 Peter 3:9** - God not willing that any should perish
23. **John 13** - Basin and towel, foot washing (referenced multiple times)
24. **John 14-16** - Upper room discourse (referenced as context)
25. **Matthew 12** - Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit (alluded to in 1 John 5 discussion)
26. **1 John 5:10-13** - Witness of the Son, assurance of eternal life

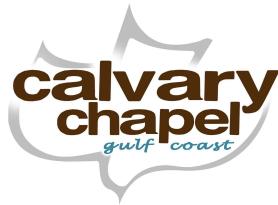
Additional References for Context:

- **Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians** - Mentioned for memory device ("Gentiles eat pork chops")

Main Themes with Supporting Verses:

Theme: Prayer and Intercession

- John 17:1-26 (entire chapter)
- Romans 8:34



- Hebrews 7:25 (not mentioned but relevant)

****Theme: Peace in Tribulation****

- John 16:33
- Isaiah 26:3
- Philippians 4:6-7 (not mentioned but relevant)

****Theme: Eternal Life****

- John 17:3
- 1 John 5:11-13

****Theme: Glory of Christ****

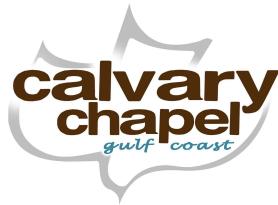
- John 17:5
- Philippians 2:6-11
- Isaiah 53

****Theme: Communion/Lord's Supper****

- Luke 22:14-22
- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (not mentioned but standard communion text)

****Theme: God's Desire for Salvation****

- 1 Timothy 2:3-5
- 2 Peter 3:9
- John 3:16-17 (not mentioned but relevant)



Quotes

The impact of our prayers is not determined by their length. Jesus prays for himself not for himself, but only to the extent that he may glorify his Father.

This is eternal life that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. The basis for eternal life is personal relationship with God and with God in Christ.

Jesus has authority over all flesh, which means Jesus controls all the events pertaining to his crucifixion, which is the only provision for the eternal life of every man.

Can we even begin to appreciate all God the Son gave up to accomplish the will of God the Father in his departure from glory to be born into this degraded world only he can overcome? He did that by making himself an offering for sin.

The mind of Christ is a sacrificial mind. The mind of Judas is a suicidal mind. In reality, those are the two eternal mindsets we choose between.

God desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth for there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

We have the mind of Christ. Communion reminds us of Christ's mindset for us and our mindset for Christ.



Discussion Questions

Jesus prayed for himself first in order to glorify the Father—how does this challenge our understanding of what it means to pray for ourselves versus being selfish?

The sermon emphasizes that the impact of our prayers is not determined by their length. What does this reveal about the nature of authentic communication with God?

Jesus defined eternal life as knowing God and Jesus Christ whom He sent. How does this relational definition differ from viewing salvation as merely escaping hell or gaining heaven?

The pastor mentioned that Jesus left the glory of heaven to be born into this degraded world. How often do we consider what Christ gave up, rather than just what He gave to us?

In praying with his eyes lifted to heaven, Jesus demonstrated a posture of longing for home. What postures—physical, emotional, or spiritual—do our prayers reveal about our hearts?

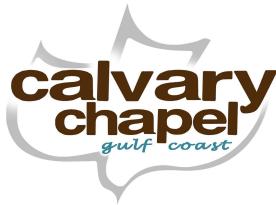
The sermon contrasts the mind of Christ as sacrificial with the mind of Judas as suicidal. What are the practical, daily implications of choosing between these two mindsets?

Paul writes that we have received the Spirit so we might know the things freely given to us by God, yet the natural man cannot receive them. How do we help others see spiritual truths they currently perceive as foolishness?

Jesus prayed that his disciples would be kept in the Father's name and be one as the Father and Son are one. What does this unity look like in the church today, and where do we fall short?

The sermon states that God desires all men to be saved and come to knowledge of the truth. How does this truth shape our evangelism, our prayers, and our view of those who reject Christ?

Communion confronts us with the choice between the sacrificial mind of Christ and the selfish mind that betrays Him. How does regularly taking communion help us continually choose Christ's mindset?



Small Group Guide

Small Group Guide: Jesus' Prayer in John 17

The Mind of Christ

Opening Prayer

Begin by asking someone to pray, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and help you understand Jesus' heart for His disciples and His church.

Ice Breaker

Share a time when you overheard a conversation that gave you insight into someone's true character or heart. How did it change your perspective?

Sermon Overview

This week we examined Jesus' prayer in John 17, often called the "High Priestly Prayer." On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus allowed His disciples (and us) to hear His conversation with the Father. This prayer reveals Christ's mindset—His sacrificial heart for His disciples, His church, and His desire to glorify the Father above all else.

Key Scripture Passages

John 17:1-26 (Primary text)

Romans 8:27-39

Philippians 2:1-11

1 Timothy 2:3-4

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Prayer

What struck you most about Jesus praying for Himself first? How does this challenge or affirm your understanding of prayer? What does it teach us about praying for our own needs?

Jesus says in verse 4, "I have finished the work" even before going to the cross. What does this reveal about Jesus' perspective on time and God's eternal plan? How does this give you confidence in God's promises?

Read John 17:3 together. How does Jesus define eternal life? Why is this definition significant? How does it differ from common cultural understandings of eternal life?

The Mind of Christ



The sermon emphasized that "the mind of Christ is a sacrificial mind." What does it practically look like to have a sacrificial mindset in your daily life—at work, at home, in relationships?

In Philippians 2:5-8, Paul describes how Jesus "made himself of no reputation." What glory or comfort might God be asking you to lay down to serve others or glorify Him?

The sermon contrasted the mind of Christ with the mind of Judas (sacrificial vs. suicidal/selfish). How do you recognize when you're operating from a selfish mindset rather than a sacrificial one?

Prayer and Peace

Jesus tells His disciples to "be of good cheer" despite tribulation (John 16:33). What tribulations are you currently facing? How does Jesus' prayer in chapter 17 give you courage and peace?

Romans 8:34 reminds us that Jesus "makes intercession for us" even now. How does knowing Jesus is praying for you right now affect your faith? Your anxiety? Your hope?

The sermon mentioned that the impact of prayer isn't determined by its length. What makes a prayer powerful and effective? Share an example of a brief but meaningful prayer from your life.

Communion and Choice

The sermon ended by discussing communion and the choice between Christ's sacrificial mind and Judas' betrayal. How does regularly taking communion help you maintain the mind of Christ?

Read 1 Timothy 2:3-4 and 2 Peter 3:9. Who in your life needs to hear about God's desire for their salvation? How can you share this truth with them this week?

Key Takeaways

- ✓ Jesus' primary purpose was to glorify the Father—this should be our priority too
- ✓ Eternal life is knowing God personally through Jesus Christ, not just living forever
- ✓ Jesus left unimaginable glory to become our sacrifice—we should never take this lightly
- ✓ We have the mind of Christ through the Holy Spirit, enabling us to live sacrificially
- ✓ Jesus is interceding for us right now at the Father's right hand
- ✓ We face a daily choice: the sacrificial mind of Christ or the selfish mind of the world



Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

Prayer Posture: Try lifting your eyes to heaven when you pray (as Jesus did) and thank God for specific ways Christ has sacrificed for you.

Sacrificial Service: Identify one person in your life and perform one sacrificial act of service for them without expecting anything in return. Journal about the experience.

Memorize John 17:3: Commit this definition of eternal life to memory and share it with someone this week.

Intercession List: Create a list of people you know who need to come to saving faith in Christ. Pray for them daily, asking God to reveal His desire for their salvation.

Communion Reflection: Before taking communion next time, spend 5 minutes reflecting on what glory Christ left behind for you. Write down your thoughts.

Closing Reflection

Read together Philippians 2:5-8:

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."

Silent Reflection (2-3 minutes):

What is God asking you to lay down?

Where do you need to adopt a more sacrificial mindset?

How will you glorify God this week?

Prayer Requests and Closing Prayer

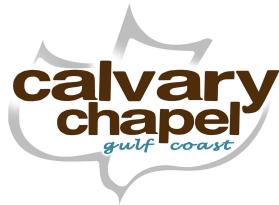
Share prayer requests with the group

Pray for each other, specifically that God would give you the mind of Christ

Thank Jesus for His intercessory prayer for you

Ask for courage to live sacrificially this week

For Next Week



If continuing in John 17, read verses 6-19 and consider: What does it mean that we are "not of this world"? How should this reality affect how we live?

Additional Resources

Read the entire John 13-17 passage this week to get the full context of Jesus' final instructions

Study the other "I AM" statements of Jesus in John's Gospel

Research the Jewish wedding customs that Jesus references regarding the "fruit of the vine"

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Daily Devotional

5-Day Devotional: The Mind of Christ

Day 1: The Prayer That Changes Everything

Reading: John 17:1-5

Devotional: Jesus prayed for Himself first—not selfishly, but to glorify the Father. This revolutionizes how we approach prayer. We often feel guilty bringing our needs before God, yet Jesus models that it's appropriate to pray for ourselves when our ultimate aim is God's glory. Before His darkest hour, Jesus lifted His eyes to heaven, reminding us that prayer is about relationship, not ritual. His posture—eyes lifted—demonstrates longing for home, for the Father's presence.

Reflection: How can your personal prayers shift from self-centered requests to God-glorifying conversations? What would change if you prayed with eternity in view rather than temporary comfort?

Application: Today, lift your eyes (literally or figuratively) and pray one thing for yourself that would bring glory to God, not merely comfort to you.

Day 2: Eternal Life Defined

Reading: John 17:3; 1 John 5:10-13

Devotional: "This is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." Eternal life isn't merely endless existence—it's intimate relationship. The Greek word "know" implies deep, experiential knowledge, not mere intellectual acknowledgment. You can know about someone without knowing them personally. Jesus defines salvation not as escaping hell or gaining heaven, but as knowing God personally through Christ. This knowledge brings assurance: "These things I have written to you...that you may know that you have eternal life."

Reflection: Do you know God, or just know about Him? Can you confidently say you have eternal life, or does uncertainty plague your faith?

Application: Write down what knowing God personally means to you. If you lack assurance, confess your faith in Christ today and receive the gift of eternal life.

Day 3: Peace in Tribulation

Reading: John 16:33; Romans 8:31-39



Devotional: "In this world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." Jesus doesn't promise absence of suffering—He promises presence in suffering. The word "overcome" (nikeo—like Nike) means victorious. Though circumstances may suggest defeat, Jesus has already won. Paul echoes this: nothing can separate us from God's love. Not tribulation, distress, persecution, or even death. Our peace doesn't depend on circumstances but on Christ's completed victory. The cross looked like defeat but was actually triumph.

Reflection: What tribulation currently threatens your peace? How does knowing Christ has already overcome change your perspective on your struggles?

Application: Identify one area of tribulation. Declare aloud: "Jesus has overcome this," and choose to be of good cheer despite circumstances.

Day 4: The Glory He Left Behind

Reading: Philippians 2:5-11; Isaiah 53:4-11

Devotional: Jesus left unimaginable glory to enter our degraded world. He "did not consider it robbery to be equal with God" yet "made Himself of no reputation." We barely comprehend what He sacrificed. The angelic host witnessed God becoming flesh—glory clothing itself in humility. Isaiah prophesied the suffering servant who would bear our griefs, carry our sorrows, be wounded for our transgressions. Yet "it pleased the LORD to bruise Him" because through His suffering, we find healing. Jesus looked past the cross to "the joy set before Him"—bringing many sons to glory.

Reflection: How does contemplating what Jesus gave up deepen your gratitude? What are you willing to sacrifice for Him?

Application: Thank Jesus specifically for leaving glory to save you. Let this gratitude motivate one sacrificial act of love today.

Day 5: Two Mindsets, Two Eternities

Reading: Matthew 26:20-25; Luke 22:14-23; 1 Timothy 2:3-4

Devotional: At the Last Supper, two mindsets sat at the same table: Christ's sacrificial mind and Judas's suicidal betrayal. Jesus said of Judas, "It would have been good for that man if he had not been born." This stark reality confronts us: we choose between Christ's mind or rejection's consequences. God desires all to be saved—He is "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." Hell was created for Satan and fallen angels, not humans. Yet rejection has consequences. Communion confronts us with this choice: Will you have Christ's sacrificial mind or a selfish, betraying heart?



Reflection: Have you fully surrendered to Christ, or do areas of betrayal remain? What keeps you from complete devotion?

Application: Examine your heart for any way you're betraying Christ through compromise. Confess it and renew your commitment to follow Him completely.

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