

6/22/25

Our High Priest, Jesus
Jn. 17:1-5

Jesus has finished His discourse which was to both comfort and illuminate the disciples regarding His soon departure back to the Father, leaving them with His peace and victory over the world.

The Holy Spirit would come and continue the ministry of Jesus through the disciples in a far more reaching dimension than they could even imagine for the Holy Spirit would be working in every believer throughout the world at the same time.

Having finished His words, Jesus prays for three things, Himself, His disciples and the ones who would believe through the preaching of the disciples.

1. The prayer is the longest prayer of Jesus.
2. The prayer is the climax to the discourse that began in chapter thirteen.

We want to focus on the prayer of Jesus for Himself which is made up of three parts. vs. 1-5

- I. The proclamation. vs. 1-2
- II. The explanation. vs. 3-4
- III. The expectation. vs. 5

I. The proclamation. vs. 1-2

A. The proclamation is by Jesus as High Priest. vs. 1

1. Jesus was about to enter the Holy of Holies in heaven to atone for the sins of the world even as the High Priest would enter into the Holy of Holies once a year and that not without blood to atone for the sins of the nation. Lev. 16; Heb. 8-10
* He could not have any sin or he would be slain by God.
2. Jesus was the fulfillment of the Old Testament Law, Priest and sacrifice all at one time.
 - a. He told the Jews that they searched the Scriptures and in them they thought they had life but they testified of Jesus. Jn. 5: 39
 - b. He came in the volume of the book, to do the will of God. Heb. 10:5-7 "Ps. 40:6-8"
 - c. He is the spirit of prophecy. Rev.
3. Jesus has just stated to His disciples the mind of God, that He has overcome the world and He does this as if the victory of the cross had already taken place. Jn. 16:33
* Jesus told them that their peace was in Him" as well as their ability to overcome the world.
4. Jesus purposely moved from speaking to them as a conqueror over sin and death to one of High Priest to make intercession for the atonement of the sins of the world

speaking to the Father with the same confidence.

5. Jesus postures Himself in a confident and yet dependent way. vs. 1b-c
 - a. He Lifts His eye to heaven, the throne of God without shame but dependent by His humiliation of the incarnation.
 - 1) The Psalms of Song of Ascents have this chief characteristic.
 - a) I will lift up my eyes to the hills--From whence comes my help? Ps 121:1
 - b) My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. Ps 121:2
 - c) Unto You I lift up my eyes, O You who dwell in the heavens. Ps 123:1
 - 2) Remember the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner! Lk. 18:13
 - 3) At the raising of Lazarus Jesus lifted up His eyes and in full confidence and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me." Jn. 11:41
 - b. He addresses God as Father. vs. 1c
 - 1) No Jew would ever nor had ever addressed God in that manner.

- 2) The only time it is even close is when God is recognized as the father of the nation. Is.
- 3) Jesus repeats this over and over in His High Priestly prayer.
 - a) Father. vs. 1c
 - b) Holy Father. vs. 11
 - c) Father. vs. 24
 - d) Righteous Father. vs. 25
6. Jesus in His petition was not asking for Himself. vs. 1d-e
 - a. The petition was an acknowledgment of "the hour" of being the Lamb of God. Jn. 1:29

* This hour has been the key hour of John's gospel. 2:4; 7:6, 8, 30; 8:20; 12:23, 27; 13:1; 16:32
 - b. The petition was for the glory of God the Father not His own.
 - 1) He asked that the Father glorify His Son which meant that He would honor Him by confirming and affirming all that Jesus had declared to the world about His Messiahship and the redemption of man in His sacrifice on the cross.
 - 2) He gives the reason for the petition, that, "Your Son may glorify You".
 - a) Jesus had in mind the gift of salvation for man.

- b) Jesus had in mind the glory of God the Father.
 * “Father, glorify Your name.”
 Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again. Jn. 12:28

B. The proclamation for God's glory is in view of imparting eternal life after His death and resurrection. vs. 2

1. God the Father had given Jesus authority over all flesh.
 - a. The reference to authority is the power to do what He was sent to do.
 - b. The reference is to “all flesh” is the world of humanity.
 * Though all things are put under His feet we do not see all things now but we will one day. 1Cor. 15:27-28
2. God the Father had given Jesus authority to impart eternal life.
 - a. The gift is in view of the sacrifice of Jesus, the Lamb of God.
 - b. The ones to whom He would impart to are, as many as the Father had given Him.
 - 1) Predestination and election is the focus in the passage.
 * The word “given” is a key word in John, appearing 72 times.

- 2) The free-will of man is the focus in the prologue, “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” Jn. 1:12-13
- 3) The authority is two-fold.
 - a) To free man from sin.
 - b) To free man for salvation.

This is the proclamation of our High Priest's prayer!

II. The explanation. vs. 3-4

- A.** Jesus defines what He meant by eternal life for the sake of His disciples who were hearing. vs. 3
1. Eternal life is usually thought of and described as time that never ends by man, though he does not understand it.
 2. Eternal life is also described as a quality of life, God's character and likeness.
 3. Eternal life is declared by Jesus to be, knowing God the Father, the only true God.
 - a. The Father is God and truly God, the first person of the godhead but not the only person of the Godhead who is God.
 - b. The Holy Spirit is also God, the third person of the godhead.

4. Eternal life is declared by Jesus to be knowing Him, Jesus Christ, whom the Father had sent.
 * Of the twenty-six appearances of the word “sent” in John’s gospel, seventeen times John uses the word for Jesus.
 - a. The name Jesus is the Greek name of the Hebrew name Joshua, which means Jehovah is salvation.
 - b. The title Christ means "Messiah", the anointed of God to come and redeem the world.
 * The word knowing “ginosko” is by experience.
5. Eternal life is bound up in both the Father and the Son.
 - a. Jesus said, “I and the Father are one, if you have seen Me you have seen the Father.” Jn. ?
 - b. John tells us that he who has the Son has life “eternal life” and he who has not the Son has not life and the wrath of God abides in Him. Jn. 3:36
 - c. John again in his first epistle says that whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either, he who acknowledges the Son has the Father. 1Jn. 2:23
 - d. The Son is the only one who reveals the Father and brings man to Him. Jn. 1:18; 14:6

* You can not have the Son without the Father and you can not have the Father apart from the Son!

- 1) Then they said to Him, “Where is Your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also.” Jn. 8:19
- 2) Jesus answered, “f I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God.” Jn. 8:54
- 3) Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, ‘I do not know Him,’ I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word. Jn. 8:55
- 4) O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. Jn. 17:25

- B. Jesus defines what He meant by glorifying the Father. vs. 4**
1. He declared that He had glorified the Father on the earth.
 - a. Jesus had come born of a virgin, when the fullness of time had come, made of a woman under the law, sent by the Father. Matt. 1:20; Gal. 4:4
 - b. Jesus had remained silent till thirty years of age when the forerunner John the

- Baptist announced Him as one crying in the wilderness. Jn. 1:19-34
- c. Jesus had constantly told the Jews that He was sent by the Father.
* Jesus declared, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.” Jn. 8:42
 - d. Jesus had been declared to be pleasing to the Father at His baptism. Lk. 3:22
2. He declared that He had finished the work which the Father had given Him to do.
- a. The word finish “teleioo” means to bring to an end or completion.
 - 1) After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled said, I thirst. Jn. 19:28
 - 2) A different form of the same word is used by Jesus from the cross when He cried out “It is finished”. 19:30
 - b. The work of the Father comprise of two things.
 - 1) Words, the revelation of God for light and guidance.
 - a) That He was the Bread of life. Jn. 6:35
 - b) That He was the Light of the world. Jn. 8:12

- c) That He was the door of the sheep. Jn. 10: 7, 9
 - d) That He was the Resurrection and the Life. Jn. 11:25
 - e) That He was the Way, the truth and the Life. Jn. 14:6
 - f) That He was the Vine. Jn. 15:1, 5
- 2) Works, the miracles and events that needed to be fulfilled as Scripture.
- a) He turned the water into wine at Cana. Jn. 4
 - b) He revealed to Nicodemus the new birth as a requirement to enter heaven. Jn. 3
 - c) He sought the Samaritan woman out and imparted salvation to her and declared Himself to be the fulfillment of Messiah. Jn. 4
 - d) He healed the lame man at the pool of Bethesda. Jn. 5
 - e) He fed the five-thousand and walked on the Sea. Jn. 6
 - f) He delivered the woman caught in the very act of adultery. Jn. 8
 - g) He healed the man born blind. Jn. 9
 - h) He raised Lazarus from the dead. Jn. 11

This is the explanation of our High Priest's prayer!

III. The expectation. vs. 5

- A. Jesus expected to be glorified with the Father.
vs. 5a-c
1. The time is now, the “hour” had come for the son of man to be betrayed and die for the sins of the world. 1Jn. 2:2
 2. The One to whom Jesus was praying to and depending on as we have already stated was His Father.
 - a. Jesus never said “our father” to His disciples but “My Father” and “Your Father”. in other words He never included Himself with their relationship but remained unique from all others.
 - b. Jesus could trust the Father completely.
 3. The petition was to share in the same glory with the Father.
 - a. If Jesus was not God, then the petition is blasphemous, for God will not share His glory with any man.
 - b. If Jesus was God, then He was asking what really belonged to Him in the first place.
- B. Jesus expected to share the same glory He experienced before the incarnation. vs. 5d
1. Jesus was declaring equality with the Father, “I had with You.”
 - a. He was claiming to be eternal as Micah declared He was. Mic. 5:2

- b. He was claiming fellowship with God.
 - c. He said to the Jews, “Before Abraham was I Am.” Jn. 8:58
 - d. He was accused of making Himself equal with God and sought to be stoned by the Jews. Jn. 10:33
 - e. He declared to be the resurrection and the life and that whoever believed in Him would never die. Jn. 11:25-26
2. Jesus declaring pre-existence, “before the world was”.
 - a. The opening verse of John’s gospel reveals this fact. Jn. 1:1
 - b. The light that lights every man who enters the world comes from Him. Jn. 1:9
 - c. The world was made by Him. Jn. 1:10
 - d. The word became flesh at a point in time for the sake of man’s redemption. Jn. 1:14
 - e. The emptying was of His glory not His deity. Phil. 2:6:11
 - f. The picture of His coming and emptying Himself is beautifully displayed as He ate with them before the Passover and washed their feet, standing and removing himself of His glory. Jn. 13:1-12

This the expectation of our High Priest’s prayer!

Conclusion

We have focused on the prayer of Jesus for Himself which is made up of three parts revealing . vs. 1-5

- I.** The proclamation of our High Priest was for others!
- II.** The explanation of our High Priest was eternal life and the finished work!
- III.** The expectation of our High Priest was to return to His original glory with the Father!