



We will be looking at verses 20 to 26 today as we come to the end of our series, Jesus' Magnificent Prayer. As you look at the screens for a moment let's review about what we have seen over the past few weeks of what and who Jesus has been praying for. Before that, I want to use a quote Pastor Kevin used at the beginning to continue to set the stage of how magnificent this prayer is. Look at the Screens!



Martin Luther, said these words pertaining to the prayer in John Chapter 17

“Jesus opens the depths of His heart, both in reference to us and to His Father and He pours it all out. It sounds so honest, so simple; yet it is so deep, so rich and so wide, no one can fathom it.” Martin Luther, German Theologian, Protestant Reformer

What and who has Jesus prayed for in this magnificent prayer?

1. Jesus prayed that he be glorified so God the Father would be glorified. Jesus has authority over all life. It is time for Jesus to die for the sins of mankind to provide eternal life for all those that will repent and believe in Jesus. This is eternal life, knowing the one and only true God who sent Jesus to die for our sins.

2. Jesus has prayed for those that have believed upon the words he has spoken. He prayed that they would be one and for their protection against the evil one as they go out and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
3. Last week Jesus prayed for those who have believed would be sanctified by the Word of God as they go and proclaim the truth of the Gospel. The Word of God is truth, the only truth that speaks to all matters of life: Creation, Sin, Salvation, Obedience to the Word while we are on this earth.

Today, we see another specific group of people brought into Jesus' magnificent prayer and the specifics he prays for this group of people as well. Let's read verses 20 to 23 of Chapter 17.

John 17:20-23

²⁰ "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

Previously, Jesus had been praying for the 11 Apostles and all those that have come to repentance and belief that he is the Son of God, the Messiah, the giver of life and eternal life. Soon, Jesus will fulfill this by dying on the cross, bearing our sins upon his body, being buried, and then being resurrected from the grave.

40 days later after his resurrection he would and did ascend to heaven and take his rightful place at the right hand of God the Father. Look at the screens:

Hebrews 1:3

³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

In John Chapter 14 we saw that Jesus told his disciples that he would be going away to prepare a place for them, and he would return one day to take them back to where he would be going so, they all could be with him again.

Meanwhile, as we learned last week, Jesus is sending them out to proclaim the truth of God's Word. The Word that not only speaks to salvation but to live a sanctified life, another word that commands us to live a holy life until Jesus comes back, or we die and go on to heaven if we are true followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

It was with this command that Jesus sent them out to proclaim the truth of God's Word.

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

And right before Jesus' ascension to heaven he told his followers that it would be with power from above that they would receive, so that they would have the boldness to proclaim this truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Acts 1:8

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Now where are the disciples and many of the followers of Jesus held up right now as he says this to them. They went back to Jerusalem, as Jesus commanded them to do. They are held up in the upper room where Jesus and the Apostles had the Passover meal before Jesus was crucified and now resurrected. Acts 1 verse 15 tells us there are 120 in this room.

What are they waiting on? The Holy Spirit to come upon them. It is now the day of Pentecost, a Jewish celebration also called, Feast of Weeks or the Feast of Harvest, which was a pilgrimage for Jewish men to travel to Jerusalem to celebrate this feast. Pentecost was 50 days after the Passover meal.

They would celebrate the wheat they had harvested by having two loaves of bread baked, with leaven, and given to the priest to wave before the Lord as an offering of thankfulness for the harvest. So, there would be thousands of people in Jerusalem from all over the areas surrounding Jerusalem for this celebration. From some of these areas they spoke a different language than just Hebrew.

Jesus was on the earth 40 days after his resurrection, he has now ascended to heaven. Now 10 days later, on the day of Pentecost, what happens? Just as Jesus promised the Holy Spirit comes upon the Apostles and the people in that upper room go out into the streets and start proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Part of that miracle, the Apostles and the followers of Jesus were speaking in the languages of all the people from the different areas that had traveled to Jerusalem for the festival. This is what the people said:

Acts 2:8-11

⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹ both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.”

What did some of the people think was wrong with those speaking? They were drunk! Then Peter stands up and lets everyone know they are not drunk but lets the people know this is the fulfilling of prophecy. Peter proclaims to the people that Jesus is the Messiah, he is the Savior, and his death, burial, and resurrection proves that it is only through Jesus' sacrifice that they can be saved.

What happened next? Through the preaching of Peter, verse 37 says that those listening were cut to the heart and said, “What must we do?” Peter said, this:

Acts 2:38

³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Verse 41 says that those who received his word were baptized and that there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Why did I share all that? Because of what Jesus was praying in verse 20. Look at it again.

John 17:20

²⁰ “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word.

These 3000 people were the first that would believe through their word of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ and from that time forward even to today, there continues to be people added because of what was started that day on the day of Pentecost. What are we called of all who have been saved since, through the Apostles

preaching, all those saved through the preaching of Pastor/Elders that came after the Apostles, all those saved through everyone that has shared the Gospel and led someone to faith in Jesus Christ.

The Church! The Bride of Christ! Jesus loves his bride! In this prayer 2000 years ago Jesus is praying for those that have already believed and for all of those that would believe. Is that not just an astounding, amazing, and in some ways a convicting thought. That 2000 years ago Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Savior of the world, was praying for you right before he went to the cross to die for our sins.

What love!! The cross is the expression of love, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whosoever believeth in him, should not perish, but have Eternal Life!”

What love is being expressed here as well as Jesus pours himself out in prayer, interceding in prayer for us. I believe we show no greater love for someone when we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but real close behind or even in tandem, we show great love for someone when we will pray for them, intercede for them before the Lord Jesus in prayer.

What are the specifics of Jesus prayer for us? Well, they are the same as what we have learned over the past few weeks.

First, Jesus is praying that we be sanctified, made holy in truth. What is the truth? God’s Word! We are sanctified, made holy, set apart from the world through obedience to the Word of God. Yes, it all begins with our salvation at the time of repenting of our sins and surrendering our life to the Lord Jesus in faith. Then there is a life of obedience that follows to show that there has been repentance and surrendering our lives to him.

Second, Jesus prays for our oneness as he had prayed for the oneness of the Apostles and all those that had already believed. We have discussed this! What is this oneness surrounded around? The Word of God! If you say that all religions, therefore all roads lead to heaven. That is not Biblical and therefore I can’t unify, I can’t be one with you with that worldview.

1 John 2:22-23

22 Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. 23 No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.

That’s why we cannot unify with Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, New Ageism, Mormonism, Jehovah Witnesses. You may say well Mormonism speaks of Jesus. Yes, they say that Jesus is the offspring fathered between Heavenly Father and Heavenly Mother (Mary). Jesus is just the eldest brother of billions of spirits born through this process. Jehovah Witness denies the deity of Jesus Christ. They deny he is the Son of God, as they proclaim Jesus was created by Jehovah, as a spirit as the archangel, Michael.

Anyone who denies that Jesus, is the Word, who was God, and is God, came from heaven to earth and put on flesh and dwelt among us, just as the Apostle John wrote in ***John 1:14 – And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.***

Jesus is God and Jesus is, “The Way, The Truth, and The Life, no one comes to the Father but through Jesus Christ!” Just as Pastor Kevin said two weeks ago, I reiterate, as one of your Pastor/Elders, we are all for unity...when it’s unifying around the Word of God...which was given to us to be the plumb line and guide for all we do.

We just learned Jesus is praying for our holiness and our oneness. The reason for us to be Holy in our conduct and to be unifying around the Word of God is found at the end of verse 21: ***So that the world may believe that you have sent me.***

What does this tell us? If you profess Jesus Christ as your savior and he has saved you from your sins, he cares how you are living. Are you still living in the sin that he saved you from?

Does your life look just like the world? Are you partying it up on the weekend? Are you having any sexual relations outside the bonds of marriage, which is marriage is between one man and one woman? Do you slander? Do you lie? If so, you or I am not showing Jesus to the world, we are just showing the world, the world!

The holiness in our lives and our love for each other should show the world that Jesus has come to save their souls!

How do we have the strength to live, as Jesus has prayed and expects us to live? Look at verse 22 and 23 again.

John 17:22-23

²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

The glory that Jesus is speaking of here is not the divine glory that Jesus and the Father share. We do not become God's and we do not become righteous. Remember it is all through Jesus that we can even have forgiveness of our sins. It is only through Jesus and repentance of our sins that God can even look at us of having any righteousness and again it is not our righteousness God sees but Jesus'.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake he made him sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Showing that we do not become righteous at the time of our salvation, but Jesus' righteousness is added to our account. Jesus' righteousness is imputed to us, given to us. When God now sees us, he does not see us in our sinful state, he sees his Son standing in front of us because of the sacrifice, the blood that was shed on the cross on that hillside just outside Jerusalem.

So, just as in our repentance, Jesus' righteousness is given to us. Jesus, in our repentance, belief in him, he has given us his glory to share with him and partake of his glory the rest of our time on this earth. This begins at the time of our repentance and the Holy Spirit takes up residence in our life and we are now partakers of Jesus' holy nature. In 2 Peter 1:3-4 this is explained.

2 Peter 1:3-4

³ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence. ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

Where does all this come from? Jesus' love! Jesus used the word love or loved 5 times in these 6 verses to describe the relationship between the Father and himself, as well as his relationship between us and Jesus. Through this magnificent prayer we have seen a process to where we come to a point that we share in the glory of Jesus.

In that Jesus was obedient to the Father, Jesus would be glorified in that he made the Father known through his life and death and resurrection. Being glorified, Jesus is to go back home to heaven and to show the payment had been paid for all those that would repent and believe.

All those that have repented and believed are now to take the baton passed to us to proclaim the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As Jesus prayed, he has given us the words to proclaim but we also have the truth of the Word of God to live sanctified, holy in this world. Jesus has given us his glory to partake of and to share in. What is the purpose of that?

1 Corinthians 10:31

³¹ So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do all to the glory of God.

The glory that Jesus has given us, as he said, is for us in turn to go and show the world his glory through sanctified, holy living so that the world will know that Jesus was sent to save their souls. This is so amazing to me! But Jesus takes it even a step further.

John 17:24-26

²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.

Jesus left heaven and laid down his glory, not his deity, Jesus was, is, and always will be God. Philippians 2 tells us that though he was in the form of God, he did not count equality with God something to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking on the form of a servant, putting on human flesh, humbling himself by obedience, being obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

That glory was restored after his death, burial, and resurrection and he took his rightful place at the right hand of the Father.

There were so many wonderful things that Jesus prayed for through this magnificent prayer. One of the most amazing things about this prayer is that Jesus is making these petitions with the cross in front of him.

1. Jesus prayed that God the Father would glorify the son in what Jesus was about to do on the cross.
2. Jesus prayed for those that have believed upon that fact and they would unify around the Word of God as the centrality to all doctrinal truths.
3. Jesus prayed for those that have believed would be sanctified, holy by and in the truth of the Word of God.
4. Jesus prayed for the sanctification, the holiness, and the unity of those that would believe in Jesus after the Apostles, as he sent out the Apostles with the power to preach the Gospel.

Jesus is pouring out his heart here and I wouldn't be surprised if tears were running down his face. Jesus poured out all those requests to God the Father. Those requests are for the here and now. Because there is an ultimate goal to all of this. Jesus wants us with him! Look at verse 24 again.

John 17:24

24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

How many of you have seen Jesus? I didn't think so! But you believe unto repentance, don't you? Well, most of us.

1 Peter 1:8-9

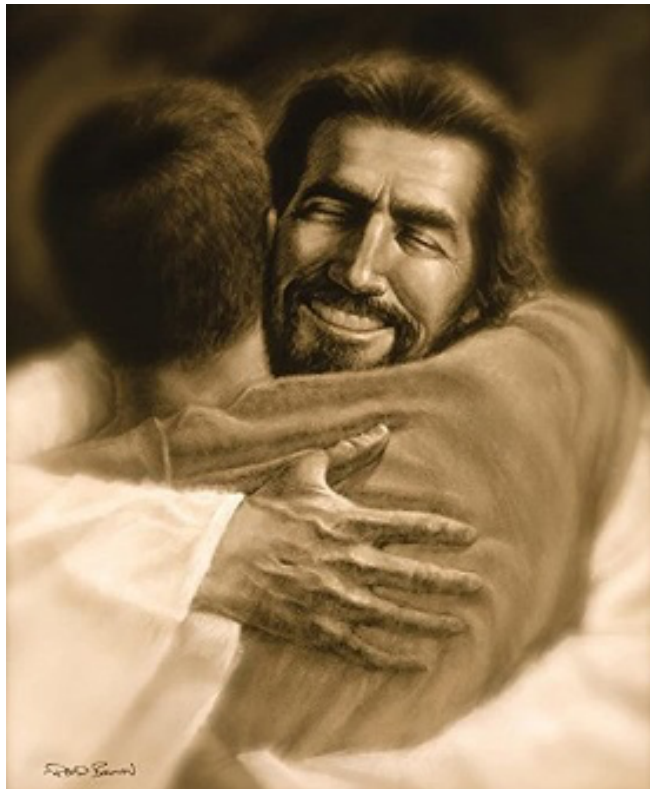
8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory. 9 Obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Everything Jesus had prayed up to verse 24 was for the here and now while we are on this earth. We are only partakers, sharing the glory of Jesus right now. But we do get to see Jesus in his full glory when we get to heaven. 1 John 3:1-3 says this:

1 John 3:1-3

1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Jesus is looking for that day when we are with him in heaven, and we see Jesus in all his glory face to face and this is what we get to do.



I used this picture because it shows Jesus smiling. I know if you are true follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, you are saying, Lord Come Quickly and you can't wait to see Jesus. The word, desire, in verse 24 is a longing, it is

in the will of Jesus that he wants to see you also. This again is specific to those who have and will surrender their life to the Lord Jesus through repentance and faith in him.

Jesus wants to see you and he wants you to see him in all his glory. Jesus has made the name of God known and throughout eternity continue to make it known so that we dwell in his love, and he is ours forevermore!

Do you know him? Truly know him.

You probably saw Tim come up, we are going to rejoice about the fact we get to see Jesus face to face some day as we sing the chorus of, Christ Is Mine Forever More!