

The Word Became Flesh (2026)

Do I?

Fairview Missionary Church | Angola, IN

Scripture: John 17

Speaker: Josh Duran

July 28, 2026

Good morning and welcome to today's broadcast of Fairview Missionary Church. And today, Youth Pastor Josh Duran fills in for lead pastor Joel Greenwood, is going to continue in his series when the Word became flesh as he finishes the final chapters in the Book of John. Good morning, Church. How are we doing this morning? Hopefully well. My name is Josh Duran. I'm the Director of High School Ministries here at the church.

Before we go anywhere, I do have to make one proclamation. Joel is not sick. He is alive and well. If you get that joke, it's because the last few times I've been asked to preach is because Joel was sick. So he is not sick. He did not eat the Taco Bell lettuce and he's fine. I wasn't going to do it, but you're welcome. Also, before I go any further, Joel did meet a good friend of mine down at vacation. So his name is Jesus.

But this is just what happens when you give me and Sam a picture of yourself. We will immediately put it into AI and make fun pictures. So just be aware of that. But before I go any further, I jump into John chapter 17 to continue our series. I do just need to say thank you. We, as the youth ministry, we got to take 65 students and 11 adults to camp this summer, which was a lot of work, a lot of effort, and it was all worth it. This is our mixed camp.

So this is our middle school ministry went to Indiana Wesleyan, and they had such a great time. Several kids had come forward and said they want to be baptized to take their next step towards Jesus. So you'll be seeing Levi, probably dunking lots of students in the water or outside. So that's to come, but just making lots of great proclamations. I got to lead the high school group to Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois, where Canada tried to ruin the entire experience with the air quality. It was a great time.

We even had a young lady come and say that Jesus is her Lord and Savior for the very first time. So that was an amazing experience for us and the group, and we just had a good time hanging out. But I say all that to say is we could not do that without you. We couldn't do it without your support, your prayer, all the donations that came in to us over the last calendar year. We literally could not do it without you. And so I stand before you and just say thank you. This morning, we're going to continue our series and the Word became flesh.

Joel has led us all the way up through John chapter 16. And in those chapters, Jesus is preparing the disciples for the end. He's preparing them for the end of his ministry, the end of his life, and he's saying vague statements, but now he's getting to the point where he's saying more direct statements of, "My time has come." He's promising this advocate, as we call the Holy Spirit, that would come and help them when he's done. And it's getting a little harder for the disciples to hear this message.

In fact, Jesus cohost him in John chapter 15 and said, "Hey, life's going to get hard. It's going to be hard." And so his challenge to them is when life is hard, remain because I am the vine and you are the branches. And so the challenge there is to just remain. And that's been what us and the high schoolers have been talking about for the last year, is what does it mean to abide? What does it mean to remain? When life throws hard decisions at you of going to college or what you're going to do after high school, what does it mean to just remain and stay in this relationship with Jesus?

And so that's a lot of John chapter 15. And then in John chapter 16, he is more direct and says, "It is my time. I am going back to the Father." And he ends chapter 16 by saying, "I have told you these things so that in me you will have peace. In this world, you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world." And then Jesus is going to go into chapter 17 by praying his last kind of final prayer with all of the disciples, and that's what we're going to pick up today.

Let me pray, and then we're going to jump into John chapter 17. Dearly, Father, God, we just thank you. God, we thank you this morning that we have the freedom to meet in this building. God, we have the freedom to meet in unity as the church. And so, God, we don't take that lightly. God, we ask that you would speak to us now. God, that we would come to learn more about Jesus. God, that we would enter into this relationship. God, that we would continue this relationship, and God, that we would just become more like Jesus each and every single day.

God, I pray and I trust through you, through the Holy Spirit, that you will use my words to speak to every single one of us. God, we love you, and we thank you, and we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen. Well, to start off this morning, I have a question. And my question is this. If you knew you were going to die and could pray one more time with all of your friends and family, what would you pray for?

If you knew you were going to die and you could pray with all your friends and family one more time, what would you pray for? Would you pray for peace? Would you pray for their comfort? Maybe financial stability for the rest of your loved ones? Maybe salvation of a loved one or your grandkids? Or would you be more like me and pray for another Michigan football national championship? I don't know. What would you pray for? That's where we're going to catch Jesus in chapter 17.

He knows this is his last time he's going to pray with all of his disciples together, and he's going to pray this prayer. And it's actually referred to as the high priestly prayer. And this is the longest recorded prayer that we have with all the disciples. And he's praying this just before he would go to the garden of Gethsemane, where he would be arrested. And so in this prayer, Jesus breaks it down into three parts.

He's going to pray for Himself, He's going to pray for the disciples, and then He's going to pray for us, the future believers. And so I want to break down all three parts of His prayer and see what God has for us this morning. So I'm going to jump right in. I'm going to read from verse 1 all the way through if you want to join me in John chapter 17. If not, all of them will be on the screen behind me.

So Jesus says this awesome statement, "I have overcome the world." And then it says, "After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed, "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your son, that your son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people, that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him." Going on, he says, "Now this is eternal life." Pay attention to this.

We're going to talk about this. Now this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you have given me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in Your presence with the glory I had with You before the world began. Now, I'm going to jump all the way back to kind of talking about what a priest is and why this is kind of considered the priestly prayer.

You see, priests were established when Moses received the law of God for all of the Israelites. The high priest, it was a special, but it was a very honorable role to have within the Israelite community. They had to be whole physically. They had to be without blemish. They had to be without defect. And they had to be holy in conduct. This person had to be pretty much as close to perfect as they looked and how they held themselves, which means after working on the mower last week, I'm highly disqualified.

But on this day, on the Day of Atonement, which happened only just once a year, the high priest would enter this place in the tent called the Holy of Holies to offer a sacrifice that would ultimately just temporarily cover the

sins of all people. And this is called the highly priestly prayer because Jesus is praying that once and for all, His sacrifice would cover all sin by all people so that we could have eternal life with Him.

Now, if I went around the room and asked, "What do you think eternal life is and what that is," I would probably get 10 different versions of what it means to go to heaven someday. But if you look at verse 3, Jesus doesn't just want us to be with Him. He says He wants us to know Him, to know God the Father, to have this relationship with Him. You see, as the theme of this morning is Jesus knew the mission.

Jesus knew the plan. Jesus knew the work that needed to be done. But don't miss this. Jesus knew I say knew on purpose. Knew everything he did and everything he was about to do was totally worth it. Totally worth it.

The beating he was about to take, the blood he was about to shed was totally worth covering all sins for all people so that God the Father could be glorified to the whole nations. You see, Jesus' final prayer wasn't about just escaping the world or going back to heaven. It was about God the Father being known. It was about God the Father being glorified.

It was all about us having the opportunity to know God the Father. And so Jesus goes on now. He's going to pray over His disciples after He's prayed that His sacrifice would be glorified. He goes on to His praying for His disciples, and He says this. He says, "I have received you to those whom you gave me and out of the world. They were yours.

You gave them to me, and they have obeyed your Word." Again, Jesus here, He's bringing glory to God, saying, "Everything is from you and everything is through you and everyone belongs to you." Jesus then continues going on because as he's praying, he's actually kind of teaching a message. He's instilling a message into his disciples as well.

And he goes on and says, "Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me, and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine, and glory has come to me through them.

Jesus is instilling this message of, "Hey, you guys have heard my messages. You have heard the truth. You have accepted the truth." And because these ordinary men with ordinary jobs not only accepted the truth or knew the truth, but they acknowledged it, they lived it, and they applied it. And ultimately, they were transformed into men who would change the entire world. And thus, they brought glory to the name of Jesus.

Now, something you may not know about me, or maybe those who do know me actually know this, is I love to self-reflect. I love to look in the mirror. I love to analyze what I'm doing. But I also like to analyze what other people are doing. But I also love to critique. And sometimes I critique my kids too much, but I love to just read the Bible as if it was a mirror into my own life.

And so as I read this, as I think about how he's praying for the disciples and he's instilling this message of what the disciples have done and what they're going to do, I ask myself one question. Do I? Do I? If you don't remember anything else I say this morning, if we can learn to answer this question as we read the Bible, it can be life-changing.

But I read this prayer about the disciples, and I ask, "Do I?" And so I start to ask, "Does my life, do my words, do my actions really, truly glorify the name of Jesus in the transformation that's happened in my life through the Holy Spirit." In other words, when people see Josh Duran, do they see a life that's been impacted by Jesus and transformed for the good?

No matter what my age is, no matter what my background is, no matter my current position, my social status, I believe that my everyday choices has an impact on this world and the people around me. How I speak, how I forgive, how I serve, how I work, how I love. It all reflects Jesus for the good and especially for the bad.

And so I ask you to ask the same question, "Do I?" Jesus goes on in verse 11, "I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one." Meaning unity. Unity over preference.

I'll let Joel keep talking about that one. Moving on. Verse 12, "Well, I was with them. I protected them and kept them safe by the name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed. That's Judas Iscariot to destruction so that the Scripture would be fulfilled. Going on to verse 13, it says, "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.

I have given them your word, and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world." Now pay attention to verse 15 here where he says, "My prayer is not my prayer is not that you take them out of the world, but that you protect them from the evil one." Verse 16 here says, "They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by truth.

Your word is truth." And again, pay attention here. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them, I sanctify myself that they too may be truly sanctified. Jesus knew the mission. He knew the mission when he came down to this earth. He knew he was going to sacrifice himself for the sin that belongs to us.

But don't get me wrong, Jesus also knew the mission was to prepare His disciples for what was to come next, to stay, to sacrifice their own comfort, to sacrifice their own plans so that they too could send this same message to the world. Jesus knew the mission and thankfully, for our sake, so did the disciples. They knew the mission too.

They didn't avoid the bad parts of the world. They didn't avoid the culture. They didn't avoid the politics. They didn't avoid the one aisle at the grocery store you don't want to go down to because there's someone you don't want to talk to. Those are the parts they did not avoid. They stayed. They preached. They loved. They served. And ultimately, they changed the world. So going on from the disciples, Jesus is now going to turn his attention to all future believers.

And if you don't know who that is, that's us. Jesus is going to pray for us. So going on in verse 20, he says, "My prayer is not for them alone." Talk about the disciples. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message. That's us. That all of them may be one. Father, just as you are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us so that the world believe that you have sent me.

I have given them the glory that you gave them, that they may be one as we are one. I and them and you and me so that they may be brought to complete unity. Jesus says unity again. And I firmly believe that when Jesus repeats himself, we should probably pay attention. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you've loved me.

If you remember with me about 17 minutes ago, I proposed the question of this. If you knew you were going to die and you had one last chance to pray with all your friends and family, what would you pray for? Because that's the boat that Jesus is in right now. He knows what's about to happen.

And so far, Jesus has prayed his sacrifice to be a final sacrifice, and that the Father, God the Father, would be glorified, that His disciples stay encouraged, that they persevere, they do what God has called them to do, and now that the believers of Jesus Christ, ultimately us, are unified as one. Do you think we should pay attention to that? Here's the thing about unity.

At its core, unity requires more than just you. I don't know about you, but I didn't have to wake up this morning going, "Josh, let's be unified with Josh. Josh, let's do what Josh wants to do today." I didn't have to do that, right? But unity is a group of people becoming one. Now, I know that sounds scary to people, that you might have to like people with people, and that is scary.

Don't get me wrong. But here's the benefit of it. You get to be you and I get to be me. You don't have to be me. That sounds a little scary, right? But we together get to be the church. We get to be the bride of Christ, a group of people called with purpose who is loved and is to love unconditionally.

And Jesus prays that we would be unified so that our words, our actions would be a witness to the world, and the world would come to believe that Jesus is who He proclaimed to be. So again, I ask, do I? Does my words, does my actions, how I carry myself, does it unify God's people? Jesus ends his prayer with these words.

He says, "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am and to see my glory. The glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world." Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I've made you known to them and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may also be in them.

Again, I say Jesus knew the mission. He knew what he came to do. Jesus also knew that there is no greater love than that God the Father has for him but also has for us. God doesn't just tolerate us. He doesn't just put up with us. He loves us, especially when it's not convenient. Jesus ends His prayer this highly priestly prayer that we would know.

Now that we would just read about this love, that we would know the love that the God the Father has for God the Son is the same love that He has for you and He has for me. And so as I close our time together, I have this earth shaking question. Do you? We talked about this all week at Mix and Move Camp, going through Ephesians. But do you know the love of the Father? Do you know that this love that the Father has for us?

It actually rescues us from our sin that ultimately deserves eternal separation between us and the Father. But do you know that because of this love that Jesus rescued us and because Jesus rescued us, He calls us into this deep relationship that is to be only with Him. And that through this relationship with Jesus, we're changed. We're transformed. And because He changes us and He transforms us, He sends us to live a different mission.

This mission to speak differently than the rest of the world, to act differently than the rest of the world, to forgive when it doesn't make sense, to serve when it's inconvenient, and to love when it doesn't need to be earned. The same mission that Jesus took when He left His rightful place in heaven to come to this earth. He did it for you, and He did it for me in hopes that through our words, our actions, that same message would be sent to the rest of the world.

And so I ask one more time, do you? Do you represent Jesus to the world? This whole message stems from a conversation I had with a guy when I was about 20 years old. He was pouring into me, he was investing in me, and he pulled me aside one night. And he might have even said it jokingly. It probably will sound like a joke. But boy, it just shook the ground I was walking on. It shattered me, really. He said, "Do people know that you love Jesus as much as you love Michigan football?" Again, it sounds funny.

To some people, it probably sounds dumb. That's okay. But do people really know that you love Jesus as much as you love blink? Insert that for yourself. Do people know that you love Jesus more than you love the world? Again, it sounded funny, but it shook me. Completely shook me. And it changed my life forever. My mission was now to raise my kids in church to know who Jesus is.

It was to change how I operated as a husband. It changed how I operated as just a person going to work in an engineering office at the time. It changed what I desired to do. I no longer desired to do this stuff that was not going to reflect Jesus well. We got to this song a couple weeks after he asked me this question and I just fell apart in my chair. And it's a song you all know. In fact, when I show you the lyrics, you'll probably start humming it in your head. Maybe some of you will start singing it. I will not. I will spare you.

But it just simply says this. Simple words. I have decided to follow Jesus. I have decided to follow Jesus. I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back, no turning back. I fell apart in my chair because I don't know how

when those words were on the screen, I don't know if you started singing the melody or maybe you just saw the words, but how I said it is, I'm no longer doing those habits because I have decided to follow Jesus. I'm no longer going to pursue my own dumb wants and desires because I have decided to follow Jesus.

I am no longer going to treat those people that way because I, Josh, have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back, no turning back. I will never do those things again because I have made this decision to follow a man who gave up his life to save me when I don't deserve it and I didn't even earn it. That's a big deal to me.

And so I ask one more time as you reflect on what Jesus has done for you, what Jesus has called us to do, how Jesus has called us to act, how Jesus has called us to speak, how Jesus has called us to love, as Jesus has called us to lead. My question is, do you? Let's pray. Dearly, Father, God, I just thank you for today. God, I thank You for Your Word, Your Scriptures. God, I thank You for this message.

God, even though times are hard, people don't treat us well. We may be falling apart financially, emotionally, maybe spiritually. But God, you've called us to be representative of Jesus Christ. And God, I pray we take that serious. Like God, that we just went and walked out of this church just doing this same old thing day in and day out.

But God, we would look for ways to serve. God, we would look for ways to change our behavior. God, we would look for ways to change our speech, our conduct, our decision-making so that they would reflect Jesus to the world. And when people see Josh, they don't just see another Michigan football fan, but they see a man who's been impacted by a Savior who will love when it's hard to love, who will forgive when it's hard to forgive, who will humble himself and say, "I'm sorry." God, I pray that the world would see Fairview Missionary Church differently.

That we wouldn't just be some church on the corner. But God, we would be a group of people who impact our city, our towns, our nation, the world, whether it's through finances, whether it's through relationships. And I pray we would be a group of people who are unified in that. A common goal to show who Jesus is, to share the good news. God, I pray that we would be bold, that we would be courageous.

But God, more importantly, that we would always rely on you. We would always follow you. We would be obedient to the call you've given us. So God, I just pray for that person who's sitting here this morning, who just needs that encouragement, God, that they would know you're here. We're here. And God, our time is now. ISS in Jesus' name. Amen.

Thank you for joining us for today's broadcast of Fairview Missionary Church. If you don't have a church that you call home, we welcome you to join us in our sanctuary every Sunday morning at 9:00 and 10:30. Fairview Missionary Church.