

John 17 – 16 August 2026

“The Lord’s Prayer”

Introduction

*Chap 13-16 are all intimate discussions w/ His disciples to prepare them for His imminence departure

*At end of Chap 13, the betrayer Judas leaves & Jesus begins to talk of life during His absence

*Chap 14, He calms their fears by reminding of *all that He’s giving them (His Gifting)*: the way to life, the empowerment of the HS, & God’s Word of hope

*Chap 15, He told them *what to live for (His Goals)*: to bear fruit, bear children & bear witness

*Chap 16 showed how *His Governance* flips confusion into truth, sorrow into joy & trouble into peace

*Chap 17 is what can only be called The Lord’s Prayer

Today we’re shown what’s on Jesus’ mind – it’s to pray for 3 different groups or individuals – immediately before going to the cross

#1 – Jesus prays for Himself – That He’d be glorified by bringing us eternal life (17:1-5)

Read 17:1a

1. The words of many great prayers are in the Bible, but to have heard the tone of Jesus’ voice
 - a. Of all words spoken I want to hear the vocal tone Jesus spoke to His Father
2. You can learn a lot about someone as you listen to them pray

Read 17:1b

1. We always think of glory as a noun (give me glory), but Jesus mostly uses it as a verb
2. The act of glorifying Christ is Him doing the work of God that no one else could possibly do
 - a. The Son’s death on the cross (the Son’s glory) will in turn bring glory to God as the fulfillment of His plan to redeem mankind

Read 17:2

1. The work of the cross is the work of earning the position of authority over mankind

- a. He's the only One capable of defeating death
- 2. See, He uses His authority to give us His reward
 - a. Goal has always been eternal life *with* God

Read 17:3

- 1. That's point of having eternal life, that we may be always coming into greater closeness with God
- 2. 'To *know* God' – *ginosko*
 - a. It's not simply to perceive or to know about something like *oida*,
 - b. It's to know by experience or being with
 - c. It's also not *epignosis* which is to fully know – Even in our incorruptible state, we could never fully know the infinite God

Read 17:4-5

- 1. Jesus was sent by the Father on a rescue mission & He's perfectly completing the mission, therefore He's seeking His return to the Father
 - a. He's ready to return to the perfect position He had w/ the Father before entering this world
 - b. Not like Satan, "I will ascend" (Isa 14)

2. Jesus didn't ask to be glorified separate from the Father as Satan did
 - a. It's the same for us
 - b. Our glory is seen when we realize we only receive it b/c we're abiding *in* Christ

#2 –Jesus prays for His disciples – That they'd be sanctified & protected by the truth (17:6-19)

Read 17:6-8

1. Jesus made perfectly clear to them the final revelation of the God they already believed on
2. Disciples received Jesus b/c His Word agrees w/ God's Word that they already knew & believed
 - a. We must test our sources to know if they agree with the already revealed Word of God
 - b. Certainly, Jesus did – He fulfilled the Law

Read 17:9-10

1. Jesus is asking the Father to provide great spiritual help & protections to *only* the believers
 - a. This cannot be offered to unbelievers b/c they haven't entered the family of God

2. What is appropriate to pray for unbelievers?
 - a. Abraham asked for their *life* to be spared at Sodom (Gen 18)
 - b. Solomon asked for foreigners to come into *belief* (I Kin 8)
 - c. Jeremiah told Israel to pray for the *peace* of the Babylonians where they lived (Jer 29)
 - d. Jesus on the cross prayed for their *forgiveness*...for they know not what they do
3. Knowing God thru a relationship with Jesus makes us special focus of Jesus' prayers & actions

Read 17:11-12

1. First, let's deal w/ the term 'Holy Father'
 - a. Only once used in Scripture & only of God
 - b. If the term was used widely in the Bible it might make sense to extend this to other people
 - i. Paul considered Tim a son in the faith, but never asked for the honor of the title father
 - c. Term is unique between Jesus & the Father, so it seems inappropriate to use it for man

- i. The Pope should read (Read) Matt 23:8-10
 - ii. This isn't like Paul & Tim - it's prohibiting sectarianism – don't follow a father, follow Jesus
2. Kept *in His name* is to be kept in His identity
 - a. To be identified as one of His
3. To *keep* them is to observe or guard with the intent to protect there in vs 11
4. Jesus says (vs 12) He *guarded* or isolated them
5. There's a real sense that being with the Lord & His Word keeps us away from sin and harm

Read 17:13-16

1. The devil's angels will cause trouble for believers that oppose the world's influence
 - a. Jesus is asking the Father to keep us from it
 - b. Jesus is asking the Father to help them see how His Word will bring them thru it into joy
2. The Word is the way to freedom from evil & entrance into joy
 - a. Sin keeps you from the Bible, but the Bible keeps you from sin

Read 17:17-19

1. Jesus immersed Himself in the Word (truth), so that His disciples would be immersed in the Word
 - a. This is what prepares them for the world
2. Thy Word is truth (Psm 119:9 – Wherewithal..)
 - a. Not that it simply contains the truth
 - b. Not that some of it is truth – but it's all truth
3. Just like the branch that's abiding in the vine needs cleanses w/ water, God's Word is cleansing us making us less like the world & more like Him

#3 –Jesus prays for you & me – That we'd be united in God's love & glory (17:20-26)

Read 17:20

1. What is the disciple's mission—to give the Word
2. What must we do with the Word – believe it
3. Then know Jesus is constantly praying for us
4. Jesus had you on his mind moments before going to the cross

Read 17:21-22

1. What is the primary thing Jesus is praying for you and me – that ***we would be united***
 - a. How do we find unity? Agree with me?
 - b. No, it for us all to agree with Jesus
2. Marriage shows the world God's love (in the husband) & the Church's obedience (in the wife);
 - a. Just as the Church's unity is the role-modeling of the Godhead's unity
3. The glory (in vs 22) that Jesus has to give us is oneness & unity with the Father (see vs 5)
 - a. This is more than just knowing Jesus but aligning to be changed into His image

Read 17:23

1. May the church be to Jesus the same way Jesus showed us how to be with the Father
2. Read Prov 6:16-19 – Some say, “I’m not arguing, I’m just asking questions” – that’s sowing

seeds of discord as Satan did with Eve in the garden

Read 17:24

1. After praying for our unity, now Jesus prays for the day we're united with Him in paradise
2. Make no mistake, the most glorious thing about eternity isn't that we made it, but that we'll see the greatness of Jesus forever

Read 17:25-26

1. Do you know what this doesn't sound like?
 - a. Cold, dead religious rituals
 - b. Cold, dead religious rules
 - c. It sounds like a perfect, loving relationship
2. Jesus could say His Father is good even though He'd be dying on the cross in a few hours
 - a. That's a deep trusting relationship
 - b. That's what we can have with Jesus

Conclusion

So, what was on Jesus' mind immediately before going to the cross?

1. **The glory that the cross will bring by making entrance for all people into God's presence**
2. **His desire for the disciples to be sanctified and protected by knowing the Word**
3. **His desire for all of us to be unity in the same love & glory He has with the Father**

What's so amazing about our Lord's prayer is that it isn't a one-time prayer, but a continual state

Heb 7:25 – *“Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”*