

That You May Have Life in His Name - John 17:6-26

November 12, 2023

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Today, we resume our study of the Gospel of John. We will be in John 17...

This study has been one that we have anchored in John 20:31 -

... but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (ESV)

The last five weeks have been devoted to a season of prayer, deep, lengthy conversations on trusting the one who is able to do far more than all we ask, all we imagine, all we hope for (Ephesians 3) ... and living our lives in total response and obedience to his love and calling on our lives.

Amazingly, Jesus' final prayer, the "High Priestly Prayer" as it is often called, points to the exact same hope that Paul had in writing to the Ephesians.

- **Broad strokes here** – there is a God who has sovereignly ruled the kosmos for all of eternity past and will do so for all of eternity future. And he sent his Son, in human form, to live, breathe, work, and display his Father for all people to see, died as the substitute for all who were given to Him by His Father, and hours before his return to his throne prays for the Father to protect his brothers and sisters, making them like Him along the way, that the love they have for Him and one another would witness to a hurting world until the day that they are brought before His glorious throne, victorious in love over sin and death.

Read [John 17:1-5](#) (where we left off in October)

From Matt's notes from that sermon: When you think about the glory of God — consider that word as a limited way to express the unlimited strength and honor of God, His majesty and worth, His sovereignty and works, His wisdom and power, His splendor and brightness... and Jesus had this glory before the world existed — and yet – willingly laid that glory aside for an unrivaled work of redemption for those who would trust in Him.

Read [John 17:6-26](#)

I want to first make a few observations of our text today, and then zero in on where Jesus's prayer is driving. Why does he pray this way?

1. The High Priest would have to first offer a sacrifice for his own sin before offering a sacrifice for the people. As High Priest, he would mediate the grace, mercy, and forgiveness of the people of God. Jesus here offers a flyover of his ministry thus far, and anticipates the ongoing work He will continue after his death before the Father - **"he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them"** (Hebrews 7:25).

Here Jesus makes it clear - *the days of repeated sacrifice and lingering guilt are finished. And yet, the days of my praying for you, interceding for you, fighting for you have just begun!*

The joy set before Jesus, as he prepared to endure the cross ([Heb. 12:2](#)), included at least two things. **1)** Jesus longed to return to the Father, to enjoy the life he shared with him before the world was created. **2)** But Jesus also felt great joy in anticipation of redeeming and cherishing his international bride. He now delights in us and rejoices over us, as a bridegroom over his bride.¹

2. **Jesus doesn't talk about the Father – He shows us the Father.** *Manifested = Displayed*
Jesus lived out the love and goodness and righteousness and grace and holiness of God the Father; He manifested God's name to them. "I manifested Thy Name,' i.e. I revealed Thy nature. For **any adequate name of a person or thing is the complete connotation of that person or thing.**" (Trench)²
The exact imprint, the radiance of the glory of God.

3. Jesus reminds his disciples, continuing to learn to pray, that God is sovereign, and because he is sovereign, they will endure to the end. - "Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept my word." (v.6)
 - I'm not sure about you, but I know my endurance to run this race is primarily of grace. I keep the word in my heart by grace through faith in Jesus Christ...not because I'm good at it, but because I need it.

4. **They needed "keeping" then. We need "keeping" now (v.11-12).**
 - Jesus cries, "*I am coming home, Father, Please! Keep them safely in your name. Unify them, keep them on mission, keep them rooted, abiding in our love.*"
 - While I was with them, I protected them, I kept them. They need guidance, Father. They need protection. They need a shepherd.
 - And not a single one was lost, except the "*son of destruction*" - "**perdition**"
 - "...in the original, the noun **perdition** is the derivative of the verb **perished**. None perished but the one who should perish; whose very state and attribute it was to perish." (Alford)³
 - Remember, Jesus' prayer here is for those whom the Father has given him, and will give him in the generations to come.
 - God is sovereign - and He chooses to save some, none of us deserving this grace. He has given some to His Son, and none of them have been lost.
 - **Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts (Hebrews 3:15)**
 - **"the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." (Mark 1:15)**

¹ The ESV Gospel Transformation Study Bible, (Notes) ESV® Bible Copyright © 2013, 2018 by Crossway.

² via David Guzik - <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/john-17/>

³ ibid.

5. Jesus prays for the Father to “Keep” his disciples in the world as He “sends” them into the world.

(v.15-18)

- Kept by grace in a world full of evil.
- Kept by the Father from the power of our enemy.
- Kept in the world from the temptations of the flesh...
- AND...
 - Sent into the world as those who are not OF this world.
 - How? → “Sanctify them” by the truth of your Word.
 - Set them apart as You have set me apart.
 - I am all that they need for life and godliness.
 - Oh would they come to us, Father. Would they abide in us, making their home in us.
 - When the storm rages and the world hates them (v.16) → Sanctify them. Purify them.

6. We are a product of their faithfulness to live into that reality and God’s faithfulness to use them

- What do I mean?
 - We are saved and loved by God as those who would “believe in (Him) through their word.
- I can vividly remember the first time I heard the gospel. An older friend, faithful to share his love of God with me, clearly communicated the love of the Father to someone as undeserving as me ...
 - And I believed through the words that He shared with me.
- Only a perfect, all Knowing Father in heaven, who holds the universe together with a Word, could have orchestrated the sanctification of that group, clinging to Jesus for life itself, only that God could have circumnavigated the globe with hope - across thousands of years - and have it land squarely on my pride-filled heart and mind in such a way that led to repentance and faith.

7. And that’s not all - while NOT going to Hell - an eternity apart from Jesus - would have been grace, Jesus’ joy overflows to pray that **the very glory of God that was given to Him is now given to us...** that we may be united with him forever (one as we are one - v.22).

- There is no undoing that kind of love.
- Be assured this morning, according to Jesus: those who love and trust in him (even the doubters) have been given something in salvation that they are not capable of ruining.

These seven observations are not exhaustive (You could preach for a really long time on this prayer)

But Why does Jesus pray in this way? He’s already taught them how to pray.

I believe Jesus wants them, and us, to live with eternity in mind.

I often fail to live this way. Dallas Willard was famous for teaching on our *nearsightedness* - that many of our struggles, temptations, and failures to walk faithfully with God are because we forget where we are going.

Jesus prays SO THAT ...

- 1) The world may know that He is the Son of God (v.23)
- 2) That the sons and daughters of God would come home, knowing that they are loved.
- 3) But not any kind of love - (the world's is counterfeit) → that those who hear and believe - in this generation and the ones to come -
 - **...would believe by faith that God loves them in the exact same way that He loves Jesus.**
 - Let that sink in.
 - When you wake up, *you are loved by the Father in the exact same way He loves Jesus.*
 - When you argue with your spouse, *you are loved by the Father in the exact same way He loves Jesus.*
 - When you are impatient with your roommate (or kids), *you are loved by the Father in the exact same way He loves Jesus.*
 - When you choose to sin, *you are loved by the Father in the exact same way He loves Jesus.*
 - When you finish the day, *you are loved by the Father in the exact same way He loves Jesus.*
 - When you think about your failures, *you are loved by the Father in the exact same way He loves Jesus.*
 - When you are tempted to think of yourself as a big deal, *you are loved by the Father in the exact same way He loves Jesus.*

And this love is driving somewhere. We are pilgrims, sojourners → the goal is a place where a group of people are gathering to see, experience, and enjoy someone forever.

V.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."

Generations of people, from every tribe and nation, gathered together to worship Him. Father this is the greatest gift that I can give them, that we can give them - **us, together, with them, forever.**

- Jesus is coming soon. But in the meantime, we are ...
- Faithfully kept by our Father in heaven until that day (or we go to him).
- We are sanctified by his power through the Spirit, according to the Word, that we might tell all who will listen, that there is a day when all wars, all terrorism, all murder, all pain, all death and loss ends.
- And so, believe today, *you are loved by the Father in the exact same way He loves Jesus.*

Community Groups:

- When you think about Jesus as our Great High Priest, how does that land on you? Comfort you? Make you uncomfortable that you need a High Priest?
- What's an example in your own life of *nearsightedness*? How have you not lived with eternity in mind this week?
- Discuss the phrase, "*you are loved by the Father in the exact same way He loves Jesus.*"