

Good morning...welcome...

If you need a bible, raise your hand...

Following the service, People in the back and up front to pray with you

Prayer...(children's ministry)

John 17: 1-12

Before we start...I just want to say out loud how incredible it is that God gave us this book. How amazing that we can dive into His Word and glean from it the lessons and teachings He has left for us. That we can eavesdrop on the wonderful and awe inspiring events that God orchestrated as we journey through the scriptures. I hope you find that as much of a privilege as I do.

Over the last several weeks we have had a front row seat as we listened to Jesus giving His final teachings and instructions to His disciples in the upper room.

We have heard Jesus teach about humility, hope, love, and abiding in Him, remaining close to Him so we can produce good fruit. We have learned that the Holy Spirit, the Helper, will come to spur the disciples on in their mission to spread the Gospel, and that same Holy Spirit still helps us today.

Jesus then gave his best friends a warning...telling them that

since the world hated Him, it would also hate them...and Since the world didn't listen to Him, it will also not listen to them. They should expect to be persecuted...and even thrown out of the church. And ultimately, Jesus informs them that they will be killed because of His name.

But Jesus also makes it completely clear that He has called the disciples out of this world, and they no longer belong to it. They are set aside to complete the mission they have been called to...to the very end.

Last week, Pastor Duane closed chapter 16 with the AH HA moment for the disciples where they finally understood. They finally connected the dots that their Master was sent by God the Father in heaven, and must now return to heaven.

This morning we arrive at the final scene in the upper room before Jesus and the disciples leave and head across the Kidron Valley to the olive grove where Jesus would be arrested.

In this final scene we have the privilege to witness the Son pray to the Father. We get a front row seat to this incredible time between Jesus and His Father in heaven.

We will be breaking this prayer of Jesus, sometimes called the High Priestly Prayer, into two sections. This morning we will be working through the first 12 verses, and next week Pastor Duane will continue with the second half of the prayer.

This is by far the longest prayer of Jesus that we find in any of

the Gospel writings. It is a farewell prayer, and it is a window into the very heart of Jesus as He is preparing to face what God has laid out before Him.

The High Priestly prayer breaks down into three sections...

1. Jesus prays for Himself
2. Jesus prays for His disciples
3. Jesus prays for all believers.

So with that...let's dive into today's verses beginning with this first part...Jesus prays for Himself...

John 17: 1

After saying all these things, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you."

After the AH HA moment by the disciples, Jesus immediately begins to pray. It's almost as if He was saying, "now that they finally understand, it's go time".

We see that Jesus "looked up to heaven" while He prayed. This refers to the physical posture Jesus takes while He prays this prayer. He looks up, most likely with His eyes open.

This might seem foreign to some of us because our custom is to

close our eyes and bow our heads when we pray.

But in the time when Jesus lived, it was common to lift your eyes to the heavens when you prayed. There are many examples of this in the scriptures...

Psalm 123:1

I lift my eyes to you, O God, enthroned in heaven

In the book of Mark, As Jesus is healing a deaf and mute man, he looks up to heaven and prays for the man's ears and eyes to be opened.

When Lazarus walks out of the grave and Jesus raises him from the dead, Jesus looks upward toward the heavens and thanks His heavenly Father for hearing Him.

I personally really like the idea of looking up and praying with my eyes open. I feel a deeper connection when I do it, and if you've never tried it, I challenge you to give it a shot. If Jesus prayed this way, we can't go wrong doing it ourselves!

Jesus begins His prayer looking up and He prays..

John 17: 1

, "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you.

"The hour has come" ...

Jesus spent three years of public ministry stressing that His time had not yet come. If we remember back to the wedding at Cana

where Mary, mother of Jesus, asks Him to perform a miracle because they had run out of wine at the wedding.

How does Jesus respond...?

John 2:4

“Dear woman, that’s not our problem,” Jesus replied. “My time has not yet come.”

(side note: Jesus did perform the miracle that His mother asked for, but it wasn’t the public display that she might have been hoping for. It was done very discreetly to honor His mother, but not give away His divine nature before God’s timing)

That being said...Jesus was well aware of the timing laid out by His Father in heaven. Multiple times in the Gospels, Jesus would heal someone and then clearly tell them not to tell anyone how it happened.

Jesus was always working on a divine schedule. He was always making sure that His public ministry was happening on God’s timing and not at the whims and will of the people.

But now...after the final instructions to the disciples in the upper room, the time had finally come.

Jesus continues by praying *“Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you.”*

During the beginning of this prayer, we will see a recurring

theme, and that theme is to bring glory to God the Father.

Jesus is praying that God now complete this great work by glorifying Him, Jesus, so that Jesus can in turn give glory back to His Father in heaven.

This one sentence really does sum up the life of Christ. The wholeness of the life of Jesus was to follow the instructions of the Father so that God would get glory...always pointing back to the Father.

The commentator Trench broke it down like this...

“Father, the hour has come: glorify Thy Son: *i.e.* make plain to these there that the Man Jesus is also the God-Man; make it plain by His resurrection and ascension.” (Trench)

In other words...The completed work of the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus will bring Glory to God the Father.

I really like the way the commentator Carson added this...

“It will bring no glory to the Father if Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross is not acceptable, or if the Son is not restored to his rightful place in the presence of the Father’s unshielded glory. That would mean the divine mission had failed, the purposes of grace forever defeated.”

So Jesus begins this intimate prayer praying for Himself...but not praying in a selfish way...praying that the plan now be carried out exactly as God planned...so that the Father will receive the

glory He so rightly deserves.

There are parallels to the “Lord’s Prayer” scattered throughout this prayer from Jesus to His Father. In essence, Jesus is saying here that “Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed by Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will Be Done, on earth as it is in heaven”.

Jesus understands that when mankind realizes that He was sent from heaven to earth for this purpose, many will believe, many will change, and many will turn from their evil and begin to give glory to God in heaven. And because of that...many will be saved

Jesus makes that clear as he continues His prayer...

Let’s continue with verses 2 and 3...

John 17: 2-3

For you have given him authority over everyone. He gives eternal life to each one you have given him. ³ And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.

Here, Jesus expresses the fact that He has authority over all humankind. This is a claim that would be pure insanity if Jesus were not who He claimed to be.

We know that the authority that Jesus has, He was given by God the Father. And because Jesus has authority over all flesh, He is the only way to eternal connection, eternal life with the Father.

A few weeks ago, we taught through the 15th chapter of John, and we learned that those who do not know Jesus, do not know God. Knowing the Son is knowing the Father.

Jesus is confirming that unless you come to know the Son, you will never know the Father, thus you cannot gain eternal life. Many believe they know God but do not recognize Jesus as the true Son of God. And if you do not recognize the Son, how can you know the Father?

Remember, the entire public ministry of Jesus was aimed at pointing to the Father in heaven and bringing Him glory, so it would make sense that the end goal is to know the Father through knowing the Son. The Father sent the Son so the world would better know Him.

Jesus puts voice to this in our next verses...

John 17: 4-5

I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ Now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared before the world began.

Jesus was constantly looking to bring glory to God the Father in heaven. It was His purpose...to point the way to heaven. He kept no glory for Himself.

And how did Jesus bring glory to God? He did it by “completing

the work God gave Him to do”.

In the military, especially during times of war, strategies for victory are broken down into individual missions. Each mission is important and the successful completion of each mission brings the army one step closer to the ultimate goal of victory.

This is especially true for the most elite soldiers, the small groups of special forces soldiers who much carry out covert and secret missions, often times putting themselves behind enemy lines.

These men and women must remain mission focused in the face of incredible dangers in order to complete the mission at hand.

If you think about it, Jesus was dropped behind enemy lines, and needed to keep Himself 100% mission focused in order to complete the mission...the work, that He was sent to fulfill.

His eyes were always fixed on the end game which was to finish well and ultimately bring glory to His Father in heaven.

Every interaction, every teaching, every soft touch, every healing, every question that He answered, every confrontation with the religious establishment...everything pointed to the Father in heaven.

And He did just that!

God has also given you and I gifts. Every believer is equipped with certain spiritual giftings that were given to them by God. And it is our duty, our mission, to use those gifts to bring glory to God in heaven just as Jesus did.

Are you staying mission focused by using your God given gifts and talents to point to the Lord? Any glory that comes from the use of those gifts should point back to God...and not to us.

It is so dangerous when we lose sight of that and begin to claim glory for ourselves. Anything we are...anything we become...is because God allowed it to be so. Make sure He is getting all the glory.

In verse 5, Jesus prays

Now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared before the world began.

This short sentence speaks volumes as to the nature of the Trinity and Jesus' recognition of it.

Jesus is asking that he be brought back to the Father and would be returned to the same glory He had before he came to earth when the job was finally finished.

Philippians 2: 5-8

Though he was God,^[a]

he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.

⁷ *Instead, he gave up his divine privileges^[b];*

he took the humble position of a slave^[c] and was born as a human being.

When he appeared in human form,^[d]

⁸ *he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.*

Jesus gave up His place in the Kingdom of Heaven, His equality with the Father, to complete the will of the Father and bring glory to Him. Now Jesus asks that that glory be restored to Him after the mission is completed.

The commentator Tenney put it this way...

“He had one main petition: that the Father would receive him back to the glory he had relinquished to accomplish his task. This petition for a return to his pristine glory implies unmistakably his preexistence and equality with the Father. It confirms his claim that he and the Father are one.”

Note the word “shared” in our text today. This word also shows an equality between the Father and the Son. John speaks of the glory of the Son several times in his writings, but we must note that Jesus never seeks to bring glory or honor to Himself...only to reflect that glory back to the Father in heaven.

Again, where do we fall in that task? Do we try to keep a little glory for ourselves...or do we give full glory to the One who gave us all we have in the first place? It is certainly worth continued examination in our own lives.

(PAUSE)

When Jesus finishes praying for Himself, He turns the focus of His prayer to the disciples.

John 17: 6 “I have revealed you^[a] to the ones you gave me from this world. They were always yours. You gave them to me, and

they have kept your word.

Jesus begins this next section of the High Priestly prayer by stating that He revealed the Father to the men placed under His tutelage. And how did He do that?

Jesus revealed the Father by being the manifestation of the Father in human form. Jesus embodied all that the Father was and is, and was able to show that to the disciples in the flesh!

I don't know about you, but I learn best when I can see something...when someone shows me how to do something and then I can learn to repeat it.

It's like teaching a child to tie their shoes...it would be MUCH harder to talk a child through that. It is much more affective to show them HOW to do it and help them repeat the process.

Jesus didn't just teach the disciples who God was...He showed them every day what God looked like by demonstrating the very character of God to them. They were walking alongside Jesus, and came to know who the Father was by getting to know Him.

Trench, the 19th century commentator, said this...

Jesus *lived out* the love and goodness and righteousness and grace and holiness of God the Father;
He manifested God's name to them.

As Jesus continues, He acknowledges that the disciples that He taught were given to Him by God above and that they always belonged to the Father. In Luke chapter 6...Just before Jesus

chooses the disciples...what does He do?

Luke 6: 12-13

One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. ¹³ When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles

Jesus spent the whole night praying before He chose his 12 initial followers. I have to believe that much of that prayer was dedicated to God showing Him, directing Him whom to choose.

So Jesus prays this time saying that these men already belong to God since it was really God the Father who chose them...and GAVE them to Jesus.

Jesus then says that these men, the disciples, have kept God's word.

Now, we all know that the disciples were flawed men. For me, it is the flaws of the 12 that give me the most hope! The fact that they were slow learners, that they messed it up sometimes, that they often responded with their heads and not their hearts.

And still God chose them, and still Jesus taught them...and they must have learned, because Jesus praises them to the Father saying they they have kept the word.

The commentator Bruce put it this way...

“He looked at them with the insight of faith, hope, and love, and realized their present devotion and their potential for the

future.” (Bruce)

And we also have to remember, Judas was gone at this point. He had fled into the night, so Jesus could pray this with full honesty and sincerity. Those men that remained were the faithful few...who kept God's word.

Now think about this... the disciples are still sitting there in the upper room with Jesus as He prays this prayer to His Father in heaven. Can you imagine what they are thinking as they listen?

They are hearing their perfect teacher pray to God the Father about them, and for them. What an incredible moment for these men. I have no doubt that after Jesus returns to heaven, they often remember this night and this prayer, going back to it in their minds. Especially when the persecution that Jesus has already told them about, came to fruition.

Jesus continues...

John 17: 7-8

⁷ Now they know that everything I have is a gift from you, ⁸ for I have passed on to them the message you gave me. They accepted it and know that I came from you, and they believe you sent me.

Christ again makes it very clear that all He has is a direct gift from His Father, and He also makes it clear that the disciples now understand that fact.

It took a while, and Jesus had to pound this point home more than once for them to get it...

Let's look back at John 14: 10-11

Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. ¹¹ Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do.

Jesus had made more than one attempt to explain the connection between Himself and the Father, but they just couldn't wrap their heads around it completely.

Now in our verses here in chapter 17, Jesus acknowledges to the Father that the sometimes thick headed disciples FINALLY do understand!

They had their AH HA moment just before Jesus began praying as Pastor Duane taught us last week...

John 16: 28-30

(Jesus said) Yes, I came from the Father into the world, and now I will leave the world and return to the Father."

²⁹ Then his disciples said, "At last you are speaking plainly and

not figuratively. ³⁰ Now we understand that you know everything, and there's no need to question you. From this we believe that you came from God."

With the disciples finally grasping the concept of Jesus being sent by the Father and also being One with the Father...Jesus continue to pray for them...

John 17: 9-10

"My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given me, because they belong to you. ¹⁰ All who are mine belong to you, and you have given them to me, so they bring me glory.

Jesus now makes it very clear that He is praying directly for His disciples. He is not praying for the world at large, but specifically for these men who would carry on the mission when He was gone.

Jesus was not showing a lack of empathy for a lost and fallen world, but focusing His attention and prayer on His best friends...

The commentator Morgan wrote this..

***"He was praying for the instrument He was creating, through which He would reach the world."* (Morgan)**

I Think that is such an amazing way to look at this. Jesus knew He was leaving them and He also knew that over the last three

years He did all He could to prepare them for this very moment. It would now be them that would continue to reach the world for the Father.

Next week, Pastor Duane will cover the second half of this prayer of Jesus, and we will hear Jesus turn his focus from the 11 disciples, to everyone who will ever believe in the future...which includes us! So you don't want to miss that!

The next thing we see here is that Jesus recognizes that these 11 men BELONG to Him, and because they belong to Him, they belong to God as well.

Remember in verse 5, Jesus asked the Father to "bring Him into the glory that we SHARED." There is an equality between the Father and the Son. In verse 5, Jesus referenced their shared glory, and now He references their joint role in the life of a believer. What belongs to one, also belongs to the other.

It's like the way a solid marriage should be...all that I have is hers, and all that she has is also hers...wait...that's not right...Let's try that again...

All that I have is hers and all that she has is mine...I think that's how it's supposed to go...

The commentator Tenney made it very simple when he laid it out like this...

"Each has full title to the possessions of the other; they share the same interests and responsibilities." (Tenney)

God the Father and God the Son have a shared equality in the dynamic of the Trinity, the same goal for humankind, that none should perish but all should come to eternal life, and Jesus expresses that more than once in the book of John, including here in the High Priestly prayer.

Verse 10 ends with Jesus stating that the disciples “bring me glory”. Really, if we think about it, this is what the heart and life of every believer should do.

We accept Christ as our savior, and then we live a life that brings honor and glory to Him. And because we bring glory to Him, we also glorify the Father.

And this doesn’t happen without our involvement. We can accept Christ and just sit on the sidelines which doesn’t really bring God much glory...or we can accept Christ and dive in head first, using the gifts He has given us to glorify Him with all we do.

And hear me when I say this...you’re saved either way...but your goal should be to glorify the God who has saved you from an eternity of punishment. That should be your daily mission as a born again Christian.

Now..let’s finish today’s teaching with verses 11 and 12...

John 17: 11-12

Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this

world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, you have given me your name;^[b] now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are. ¹² During my time here, I protected them by the power of the name you gave me.^[c] I guarded them so that not one was lost, except the one headed for destruction, as the Scriptures foretold.

Jesus is leaving the world. The disciples know that, they may be having a hard time coming to terms with it, but they are aware that it's going to happen.

They will remain in the world, and Jesus will return to His Father in heaven. Those words of Christ are so beautiful...."but I am coming to You".

Jesus is acknowledging that His work here on earth is almost accomplished. The mission is almost complete.

Any of you that travel for work and are away from your families for extended periods of time...it's like those last few seconds on the phone telling your children or your spouse that you are on your way and will see them soon.

It is such a short but beautiful moment as Jesus prays.

But because Jesus is leaving, things will change dramatically for the disciples. They will no longer have Jesus to help them, or protect them in the flesh. Christ now prays for holy protection for the disciples through the power of the name of God.

John 17: 11-12

“Holy Father, you have given me your name; [b] now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are. ¹² During my time here, I protected them by the power of the name you gave me”

The protection that surrounded the disciples during the three years of Jesus’ public ministry was not because of the power of the name of Jesus. Jesus says, “You have given me YOUR name”. It was the name of GOD, through Jesus, where that protection came from.

The commentator Bruce wrote this...

“By the Father’s power, imparted to Jesus, Jesus himself has guarded them as a treasure entrusted to him by the Father, and now he gives an account of his stewardship.”

Jesus is interceding for the disciples so that the power that has protected the disciples would continue after He is gone.

Christ intercedes for His friends and then he prays that they be “United just as we are”. Remember verse 5...Jesus talking about the glory that the Father and Son “shared” before the world began. The Father and the Son of the same mind, the same heart, the same purpose...there is an equality there.

Jesus wants protection for the disciples so they can maintain that kind of unity. That they stick together...so that in the face of every evil, every hardship, every persecution, they will stay of a like mind, of a like heart and of a like purpose.

Especially considering that they will soon see their Master

arrested, beaten and murdered. Jesus prays for their unity to remain in the face of all of that.

Jesus still wants that same kind of unity for believers today. Christians are a diverse group. We are all very different, but as followers of Christ, there are certain things, certain characteristics that we should all embody.

We should be united in heart, and mind and spirit, and purpose. Are we striving for that unity within the Church (capital C)? I truly see that kind of unity here at Calvary Chapel...but it certainly isn't present in every church you enter, and that is a shame.

We **MUST** continue to strive to keep that unity under this roof so that everyone who enters will sense the presence of God...the protection of God.

We will finish this morning with the second half of verse 12 where Jesus quickly references Judas...

John 17: 12

I guarded them so that not one was lost, except the one headed for destruction, as the Scriptures foretold.

Jesus, through the power of the name of God, protected his friends during His time with them. There were times during the 3 years of public ministry with Jesus when we could imagine the disciples scattering or leaving one by one as things started to get dicey.

But this did not happen...they all remained, faithfully walking with Christ. Faithfully following Him up to this point.

All except one...the one headed for destruction...and obviously Jesus is referring to Judas who left earlier that evening. But it should be noted that Jesus didn't LOSE Judas...Judas lost himself.

As we wrap up this morning...and As I said earlier, this is only the first half of the High Priestly prayer of Jesus in the upper room with His disciples. We have seen Jesus pray for Himself, and we have listened to Jesus pray for His best friends.

In the second half of this prayer, Jesus will continue praying for the disciples before turning his focus to all future believers...for you and me! If you want to learn more about what Christ prayed on your behalf...You'll just have to come back next week!

So what lessons can be drawn from listening in on Jesus praying this intimate prayer to His Father in heaven?

1. God the Father is a giving God.

In the same way that all that Jesus possessed had come from His Father in heaven, we too have gifts, spiritual gifts, talents, that God has given to us.

James 1: 17 NIV

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting

shadows.

Matthew 7:11

So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

God loves to give. In the 12 verses we covered today, I counted the words “gave or given” 12 times.

As a believer, every one of us is given spiritual gifts by God. Everyone’s gifts are different, but all are vitally important in the building of the Kingdom on earth! One body...different parts...

Don’t ever think that you have nothing to add...because God has given you gifts to be used!

Even our possessions are a gift from God. Our home, our families, jobs, our church...All we have, we should be thanking God for, because He is the provider of it all. Don’t take that for granted...ever! And if you are in need of something, ask! God loves to give...because He loves us!

(sidenote: Just because I don’t want anyone to get the wrong impression...there are also times when God withholds the giving because it’s in our best interest. Sometimes, we ask for things that might destroy us, and in love, God may refrain from giving us what we asked for...also out of LOVE!)

2. We should use the Gifts God has given us to bring Him glory!

Just as Jesus used all the power and glory given to Him by the Father to bring glory back to the Father...we too should be using the gifts God has given to bring Him honor and glory!

All we have, and all we are, is a direct result of the Lord blessing us. And each gift we have, each blessing we have, should be used to point back to God.

Jesus said in verse 4 of our text today...

John 17:4

I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.

God has given you gifts...both spiritually and physically. God has blessed you so that you can use those gifts to bring honor and glory to His name.

And here's the most important thing...the gifts God has given us should never point back to us. We should not be holding on to any of the glory that God deserves.

This is true for all of us, but especially true if you are in leadership...a teacher, a worship leader, a pastor. Be very careful not to get a big head and think that you are doing things on your own, and of your own power. It is God who has gifted you to be able to do what you are doing. Use your gift to point to the Father in heaven!

Are you using the gifts God has given you for that purpose? Or sometimes, do you keep the glory for yourself? We should be constantly examining ourselves to make sure we are only

bringing glory to God, and not ourselves.

3. Jesus prayed for unity for His disciples...unity in heart, and mind, and spirit, and purpose.

Without unity, the Holy Spirit cannot thrive. We should always, always, always be striving for unity. We are all very different people, and we all come from very different backgrounds, and we may have different viewpoints on certain things.

But we should strive to be unified in the knowledge that Jesus is Lord, was sent by the Father, died on the cross for all mankind, and called all believers to a life of love, humility and service.

I don't want to give away too much from Pastor Duane's teaching for next week, but let me read to you verse 20 and 21 as a preview for next week. Jesus is praying for all believers...for you and for me..

John 17: 20-21

I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. ²¹ I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.

Did you catch that? Jesus prays for the unity of all believers...why? "So that the world will believe you sent me".

Our unity enables the Holy Spirit to work through us, which leads people to Christ, which leads people to the Father, which leads people to repentance, which leads people to everlasting life in heaven. If that's not motivation enough for us to remain unified, then I don't know what is.

Staying unified in Christ is one of the most important things a church can do, because without that unity, the Holy Spirit can't thrive.

4. And that leads me to our final application from today's scriptures. Ultimately...it's the reason God the Father sent God the Son in the first place.

Listen to the words of Jesus in verses 2 and 3...

John 17: 2-3

For you have given him authority over everyone. He gives eternal life to each one you have given him. ³ And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.

The gospel message...The Father sent the Son to live a perfect life, to sacrifice Himself on a cross, to spend 3 days in the earth, and to conquer sin and death and be raised to the right hand of the Father in heaven.

Why? So that all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Have you done that in your life? If you haven't...make today your day....

PRAY