

Jesus Intercedes

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-7 Tony: Worship Night. Peru. Harvest Vol. Harvest Candy/Baked. YAMS. Calv Kids
- B. Slide8 A21: TY team for representing.
- C. Slide9 C@R: Camp Alandale/mnt camp program sharing (prevention component, working w/abused & neglected kids).

II. Slide10 Intro: Jesus Intercedes

- A. *Flannery O'Connor*, the famous *southern writer*, at 20 years old, was studying writing in Iowa, and she wanted to deepen her prayer life. *She had to. She wrote...*
 1. *Dear God, I cannot love the the way I want to. **You are** the slim crescent of the moon that I see and **my self** is the earth's shadow that keeps me from seeing all the moon... What I am afraid of, dear God, is that **my self shadow** will grow so large that it blocks the whole moon, and that I will judge myself by the shadow that is nothing. I do not know you God because **I am in the way.***
- B. **Prayer:** God, we don't want to speak towards You, **but with** You. *We realize when we fail to pray it's **not breaking a rule**, it is a failure to **treat You as God**. It's a **sin** against Your **glory**.*
- C. Slide11 **The Diving Bell Spider** or *the water spider* is an amazing little creature. It lives in rivers and streams. How does this species survive in its watery environment? It spins a tough basket-like web of silk, a kind of **diving bell**, and anchors it under water to plants or other objects. Then it captures a surface air bubble, which it pulls down and ejects into its underwater house, filling it with air. This combination of **web building** and **bubble trapping** allows the water spider to live in an environment that normally would destroy it
 1. **As Christians, we too live in an environment that could destroy us.**
The world's **values, attitudes, and practices** threaten to drown us unless we are able to protect ourselves from them. **How are we to survive spiritually in this hostile worldly environment?** We must build a **bubble** of protection around ourselves **by trusting God, studying the Scriptures, praying, fellowshiping with believers, communing with the Holy Spirit, and obeying His Word.**

2. These activities will **insulate** our **mind & heart** and help to keep us **safe** and **secure** *in Christ*. As the water spider lives **in** the water **but** is not **of** the water, **so** we must live **in** **but** not be **of** the world.

D. Slide12 Ch Outline: *Jesus prayed for **Himself** (1-5/last week). Jesus prayed for His **present** disciples (6-19). Jesus prayed for His **future** disciples (20-26/next week).*

1. I know I separated out **present & future** disciples...**but we are His disciples** so this relates to us also. Here we have *what Jesus did for us, what Jesus prays for us*

E. Outline: *Prayer & Scripture. Kept & Guarded. Unified not Uniform. Sanctified & Sent.*

III. Slide13a **PRAYER and SCRIPTURE**

A. Jesus is praying for you - Wow.

1. Rom.8:34 *Christ Jesus is the one who died - more than that, who was raised - who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.*

2. Heb.7:25 *since he always lives to make **intercession** for them.*

B. **I have manifested your name** - To the Jewish people, **a name** represented *a persons whole personality, his character.*

C. What a great promise *ALL Mine are Yours & Yours are Mine.*

1. What if we really believed that & lived as children in our Fathers house?

D. Slide13b Note: Prayer & Scripture always go together.

1. This wedding of the **bible and prayer** anchors our lives down in the real God.

2. I'm reading Timothy Keller's book on Prayer. He quotes the Scottish theologian **John Murray** who says, that in prayer we are call to an **intelligent mysticism**.

a) It's an encounter with God that involves not only of **the affections of the heart** **but also the convictions of the mind**. We are not called to *choose between* a Christian life based on **truth and doctrine** **or** a life filled with **spiritual power and experience**.
They go together.

E. (9) I do not pray for *the God-rejecting world*.

1. **The world** - a fallen corrupt system. **God creates, then** **satan** counterfeits.

a) God creates **this wonderful planet** & **satan** corrupts it w/sin.

- b) God creates **truth** & satan corrupts it w/**lies**.
- c) God creates **life** & satan corrupts it w/**death**.
- d) God creates **light** & satan corrupts it w/**moral darkness**.

IV. Slide14a **KEPT and GUARDED**

- A. (12) Not one has lost **except** the son of destruction, **that** the scripture might be fulfilled.
 - 1. Judas was not a saved man, even though he was one of the 12.
 - 2. He was **never washed** from his sins 13:11. He was **not chosen** by Christ 13:18. He was **not kept** (17:12). *He wore the uniform but wasn't part of the team.*
 - a) He's a frightening example of how **near** one can get to the kingdom & still be lost.
- B. Slide14b Now, in contrast to Judas...*the Holy Father kept them in His name* (11). Jesus **kept & guarded them, and not one was lost.**
 - 1. So Jesus **intercedes, keeps & guards** us.
 - 2. **Good News:** Jesus finds the **wanderers** & chases the **runners**.
- C. Jude 24 *Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy.*

V. Slide15a **UNIFIED not UNIFORMED**

- A. **Unity** - 100 pianos all tuned to the **same fork** are automatically tuned to *each other*. They are of **one accord** by being tuned, **not** to *each other*, **but** to another standard.
- B. **That they may be one** - Unity
 - 1. Unity was no small request. These were **tough-minded, independent, strong-willed men**. **Yet** He wasn't after **organizational unity**, **but interpersonal, relational** unity.
- C. Slide15b Jesus wasn't after **uniformity**. He **recognized & valued** their **diversity**.
 - 1. He didn't **copy/paste** disciples. **Nor** churches for that matter.
 - 2. He uses our **individuality** to achieve a variety of purposes. **[To fight on different battle fields, to wage different wars, to wield different weapons]**
 - a) We're all in the battle, fighting for the same King.

VI. Slide16a **SANCTIFIED and SENT**

- A. **Sanctifying** - doesn't mean growing a halo, **or** glowing with spirituality.
1. It means, *to set apart for a certain purpose or for an intended use.*
 2. It's when Kelly says, *don't eat those chocolate chip cookies, I made them for so & so. In the biblical sense she **sanctified** that food, **set it apart for a specific use.***
 3. **How** are you to be sanctified? By the **truth**. **And, Why** are we to be sanctified? To become **useful**.
- B. If **His Word** is not working in us in a life-changing way, **the World** will be.
1. If we are not becoming conformed to the image of Christ, we will be squeezed into the mold of the world.
- C. (14) **Not of the world** - John gives us the biblical definition later in his 1st epistle 1Jn 2:16
1. **Slide16b** 1Jn 2:16 *For all that is **in the world** - the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, and the pride of life - is not from the Father but is from the world.*
 - a) The **3 offsprings** don't **originate or proceed** from the Father.
 - b) This **spirit of the world** permeates all society. All its plans, aims & activities belong to the present passing show. Eccl. calls it *under the sun*. (Ernie & the Sat morn men)
 - c) The world has always been on a collision course with **Christ**, because His teachings reverses everything that **the world prizes**.
 2. **Slide16c Paul** strikes a good balance in Phil.2:15 *that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you **shine as lights in the world**.*
- D. **Slide17a** (15) I do not ask that you take them **out of** the world – Do you **over-identify** w/ the world till no one knows you're a Christian? **Or**, do you **separate** yourself so far from the world playing it safe w/little contact with them? [Isolation or Assimilation]
- E. First, the Christians attitude towards the world should not be one of **withdrawal**.¹

¹ Kent Hughes, John Ch.17.

1. Withdrawal has always been a temptation for the religious. **To be a Pharisee was to be a separatist.** The goal of that group was to escape the *contamination of fallen Society.*

- a) 3rd century **Christian hermits** fled to the deserts of Egypt. **Later** there was the rise of **monasticism** in the middle ages. [monastic = *to live alone*]
- b) **We all have been tempted to do the same.** Whether it was **servicing at a summer camp** or enjoying a retreat, we tried to find a way to *spend the rest of our lives there.*
- c) **We all have our escape fantasies.** A hideaway cabin in the woods. **Or** sometimes we've all looked at the Rapture the same way...**as an escape** from this world **rather than** looking forward to **enjoying His presence.**

F. **Our lives can become easily monastic.** *Where we have figured out to live our lives only around other groundhog Christians.* We pop out of our hole. Look both ways. Run to our car & term on Christian radio. At lunch breaks only sit with Christians. Only hire Christians. Go to Bible studies with only Christians. Only read Christian books. Only speak a special crypto-Christian language.

- 1. None of these are bad, **but** can be a form of **isolation** in a bubble of a **Christian subculture.**
- 2. **Slide17b** Kent Hughes said, *It is possible to go womb to tomb in a hermetically sealed container decorated with fish stickers.*
- 3. **Moses, Elijah, and Jonah** all asked to be **taken out of the world,** **but** not one of the requests was granted.
 - a) **Ask yourself:** have I functionally removed myself from the world? *Christ prays that we will not be.*

G. **Slide17c** Secondly, is our temptation to **conform** to this world. This is **assimilation**, where in time there's **no distinguishable difference** between **the church** & **the world system.** It's "*secular-Christianity*" if there were such a thing. (they're the **unicorns** of the church)

- 1. Romans 12:2 **Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.**
- 2. **Christ prays for his disciples that we would not go to either of these extremes:** towards **isolation** or towards **assimilation.** *Both Temptations will be great.*

- H. Slide17d Which is your greatest struggle? Too far *away from* this world (can't relate to people or culture) Or, Too far *into* the world (*can't* tell any difference between you & your world)
1. Have you removed yourself so far from our world you don't have any influence upon it. Your goal is isolating/protecting/safeguarding yourself or your family & you've forgot your mandate was not to be **monastic** but **evangelistic**.
 2. Jesus would ask, *remember why I left you in this world? Follow my example: I ran from religious sounding people & ran to the filthy who needed me.*
 3. Jesus said to be innocent, He didn't say to be naive. [May we warn our kids of what awaits them at University or out in the world & not just hope they never see anything] [*shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves*]
- I. Slide17e (18) Msg *In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world.*
- J. They are **not of the world** (14,16). They are **not taken out of the world** right away (15). But are **sent into the world**. Be insulated, *not* isolated.
1. Slide17f Our lives are **not** to be ones of **isolation or assimilation** but of **mission**
 2. The **method** of mission goes back to **sanctification**. The 2 ideas: to be made holy **and** to set apart for service.
 - a) Which are both done by a close **examination** and **application** of the word of God.
- K. (19) Jesus choose to set himself apart for service. He entered our world excepting pain in peril, made himself vulnerable to suffering and ultimately death. **Mission is dangerous!**
1. Hebrews 7:26 says he was, **set apart from sinners**. And Matthew 11:19 says he was, **a friend of sinners**.
- L. Mission takes *purposeful, intentional, decisive action* to meet those *who need Jesus*. But with His help, we can do this.
1. This might mean taking a class in a local college, joining the PTA, playing basketball in the nearby park, being a room mom, taking an active interest in a Starbucks employee, coaching a team, joining a community club, befriending someone who is homeless.
 2. How well do you relate to **Christians**? How well do you relate to **the world**?
 3. Isolation or assimilation **or mission**?