

“The Time Has Come To Pray (Part 1)”

The prayer that Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane before His arrest and crucifixion is recorded in John 17:1-26: *“Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: ‘Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, ² as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴ I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵ And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. ⁶ I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. ⁷ Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. ⁸ For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. ⁹ I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. ¹⁰ And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. ¹² While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. ²⁰ I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. ²⁶ And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”*”

Let's keep these things in mind:

- If it was time for Jesus to pray, certainly it's time for us to pray;
- Just as Jesus often found time to pray, so may we do the same;
- Just like Jesus did, let's intimately address God as *our Father in Heaven*;

- Just like Jesus did, let's spend regular, constant, intimate times of communion with the Father in prayer;
- Let's draw near to God so He will draw near to us;
- Let's make growing our personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ our Lord the most important priority of each and every day;
- Let's continually invite the Lord to fill us with the fulness of His glory so we may glorify Him in all things.

Discussion Guide/Action Steps

1. Let's lead the way in re-dedicating ourselves to *one nation under God*.
2. Please consider praying every day from 1:50 PM-2:00 PM until July 4 for one of our fifty states and/or provinces.
3. What steps do you need to take to improve your prayer life?
4. Make this your prayer: "*Lord, I pray that You would pour Your Holy Spirit out upon me, not so that I become more noticed or important, not so that I will just experience spiritual goosebumps; but Lord, the reason I want You to fill me to overflowing is so that other people may see You in me and so that I will have the power and opportunity to tell them about You. Lord, come upon me in ever-increasing measure so that I may bring glory to You.*"