

“The Time Has Come To Pray (Part 3)”

The prayer that Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane before His arrest and crucifixion is recorded in John 17. As Jesus turned His attention to praying for His closest disciples, we read what He prayed in John 17:6-7: “*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.*”

From these words of Jesus’ prayer we learn:

- ***Jesus has revealed God the Father and has shown us what He is like.*** While we still retain our awe, humility and reverence before Almighty God, Jesus also adds an intimacy and approachableness to our relationship with the Father. This all-important revelation is recorded in the Bible. We, too, should reveal the truth about God, as it is recorded in the Bible, to others.
- ***Salvation is God’s initiative.*** He has made everything that is necessary for salvation available to us. Jesus came to seek and to save those who are lost. We respond to His call and grace, yes, but He’s the One who finds us and reaches out to us.
- ***We are in this world, but not of this world.*** We cannot embrace the world and Christ at the same time. God’s people are to be holy/different. We shouldn’t be looking back over our shoulder at the world with any kind of longing in our heart. While we are in this world we represent God and must faithfully stay on mission for Him.
- ***We must obey God’s Word.*** Just like Jesus did, we need to obey God by *completing the work He gives us to do* (see John 17:4). We need to do what God wants, not what we want. It’s through obedience that we come into the knowledge that Christ is really is who He says He is.

Discussion Guide/Action Steps

1. Try calling our Heavenly Father, “Daddy.”
2. Respond to God’s activity in your life.
3. Don’t look back. Embrace Christ, not the world.
4. Do whatever God wants you to do, regardless of the cost.