

Subject: *The Real Lord's Prayer*

Scripture: *John 17:1-5*

When we refer to the Lord's Prayer we usually think of that prayer that begins: "Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name." Actually that was not a prayer that the Lord prayed, but a prayer He gave us as a model prayer or a guide for our prayers. We know that because in that model prayer we find these words: "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." Jesus never prayed that way because he never needed forgiveness. That is a prayer for disciples, but here in John 17 we find the real Lord's Prayer. This is what Jesus prayed on the night of his arrest and just before His crucifixion. In this message we will begin to look carefully at this prayer and focus on the first part of it.

- Jesus is our instructor in prayer

His disciples asked Him, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Lk. 11:1). They never asked, "Teach us to preach" or "teach us to heal" or "teach us to serve," but they did ask, "Teach us to pray." There was something remarkable about His prayer life. Jesus teaches us by example and by word. From beginning to end Jesus' life was saturated in prayer. He prayed at His baptism, before choosing the twelve apostles, before and after feeding the 5,000, at the transfiguration, before raising Lazarus from the dead, at the Last Supper, in the Garden of Gethsemane, from the cross, and at the ascension. But of all His prayers, the one recorded in John 17 is the most complete and profound. There is no other chapter in the Bible like it. It has been called the Holy of Holies in Scripture. It's as if the curtain is drawn back and we hear Jesus as He comes to God the Father in prayer. What a privilege.

- Jesus is our intercessor in prayer

In this prayer we have a picture of what Jesus has been doing for believers ever since He went back to heaven to be seated at the Father's right hand. ***Hebrews 7:25*** *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.* In this prayer we see that Jesus had specific people on His heart and He had specific things to pray for. He prayed for believers to be sanctified, to be unified, and to be glorified. This prayer has three clear parts:

- Vs. 1-5, Jesus prays for Himself
- Vs 6-19, Jesus prays for the apostles
- Vs. 20-26, Jesus prays for the whole church

JESUS PRAYS FOR HIMSELF – A concern for God's glory (vs. 1-5)

The dominant thought in the first part of His prayer is that God is to be glorified. This prayer has something in common with the Model Prayer which begins, "Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name." Both prayers begin with a concern for God's glory.

1. God is glorified in Christ's death (vs. 1)

In this prayer Jesus speaks to the Father about their eternal plan of redemption, how He worked out that plan and the way that believers fit into that plan. This was the very hour for

which Jesus had come. Until now Jesus spoke of that hour as future, but now the hour had come. This was the culmination of God's eternal plan by His death on the cross. To the world it was just crucifixion, but to God it was glorification. Jesus glorified the Father in His death on the cross. It was the ultimate sacrifice, the very reason He came to earth. This was God's eternal plan to provide salvation for sinners.

2. God is glorified in the salvation of sinners (vs. 2-3)

Jesus reveals salvation from God's point of view. This is God's eternal plan for the blessings of salvation to be applied to sinners. Salvation begins with God's power (authority) given to Christ over all people. Salvation is the gift of eternal life given to those who have been given from the Father to the Son. All people who are saved are God's love gift to His Son.

John 6:37-39 ³⁷ *All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.* ³⁸ *For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.* ³⁹ *And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.*

Jesus defines eternal life in verse 3. It is knowing God and His Son, not knowing about them, but knowing them in a personal relationship based on God's grace and based on our repentance and faith. God is glorified in the application of salvation to sinners. **Romans 6:23** *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

3. God is glorified in Christ's obedience (vs. 4)

Jesus left heaven for a time and came to live on earth for 33 years. Then He left earth and went back to heaven. During his life of 33 years, he spent 3-3½ years devoted to doing the work God the Father gave Him to do. He finished the work. He left nothing undone. When He was hanging on the cross He said, "It is finished."

4. God is glorified in His own eternal majesty (vs. 5)

See verse 24. Before God created anything He lived in perfect love and harmony as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And they all shared a glory and majesty that we can't even begin to understand. But we do understand this: God needed nothing. He lacked nothing. He didn't need to create us and He didn't need to redeem us. But once God chose to redeem sinful man He set a plan in motion so that we would see His glory forever and ever. Heaven is called glory because the Lord is the glory of that place.

In this prayer of John 17, Jesus is concerned about God's glory and His glory. That's what should concern us. In my life Lord, be glorified. In my home Lord, be glorified. In your church Lord, be glorified.