

Lighthouse Bible Church

August 24th, 2014

John 17: 6 – 19 *Scripture Reading: 2nd Corinthians 5: 17 - 21*

‘Jesus prays for His Disciples’

Stand – Read – Pray

As we have seen, Jesus has just finished His final words to the eleven remaining Apostles. And after talking with them, He now spends some time talking with the Father in a very intimate prayer that reveals the love and heart of our Lord.

This prayer reveals the love of Christ for the Father and the desire He has to be reunited together with Him as one. This prayer reveals His love for His disciples and His desire for them to be one with them. This prayer reveals His love for all believers who would ever come to Christ to also be one with them.

We saw last time in Verses 1 – 5 that Jesus knew that His hour had come and that He would glorify the Father and the Father would glorify through His death on the cross and the ultimate display of His glory.

We also saw in that prayer that Jesus gives eternal life to all of those that God the Father has given Him because the Father had given Him authority over all flesh. Jesus said that you can only have eternal life by knowing the only true God and by knowing His Son, Jesus, whom He sent.

Jesus concluded that portion of the prayer by desiring the glory and fellowship He once had with the Father before the world was ever created. And now Jesus continues praying to the Father, but now the focus of His prayer is on His disciples and this becomes an intercessory prayer for them. And as we shall see, some of this will have application to us as well. Lets start with Verse 6

Verse 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

Jesus continues His prayer by saying to the Father **I have manifested Your name to the men whom you have given Me out of the world.** The men here that He is praying for are the disciples in particular, and certainly would apply to all believers, but He is talking specifically about the 11 Apostles.

And to these men, Jesus says, **I have manifested Your name.** Jesus says I have revealed, I have made known, I have shown, which is what the word manifested *phaneroo* means, **Your name.** And His name is all that He is. All of God's attributes, character and nature, Jesus has revealed to the disciples in and through Himself.

He did that through the life that He lived. Remember He told them back in **John 14: 9 if you have seen Me you have seen (whom) the Father** because **He and the Father are One**, He said back in **John 5: 30.** He said in **John 12: 45 He who sees Me sees Him who sent Me.** He also did through what He taught the disciples through the Scriptures about Himself and the Father and He also did by the signs and miracles He performed to show them the Father. So He had manifested the all the attributes and character of the Father, the Father's name, to them. That is why **Colossians 1: 15 says He is the image of the invisible God.** **Hebrews 1: 3 says Jesus is the express image of His person.**

Then Jesus says I have manifested your name **to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours and You gave them to Me.** He is talking specifically about the disciples but it certainly has application to all believers. Because all believers belong to the Father who then gives them to the Son as His gift of love to Him; and this was all done before the foundation of the world. That is amazing to think that I am a gift from God to Jesus, that you, as a believer, are a gift from God to Jesus.

And He says **the ones you have given me OUT OF THE WORLD.** Remember back in **John 15: 19** Jesus said ...**you are not of the world but I chose you out of the world.**

Jesus says **they have kept Your word.** They were chosen by God through Christ for salvation and now the evidence of that salvation, the genuineness of it, is their obedience, they have kept God's word. And they have kept God's word because they love Jesus as **John 16: 27** said and Jesus Himself said in **John 14: 15, 21** **if you love Me you will keep My commandments.** Jesus said in **John 8: 31** **if you continue in My word you are My true disciples indeed.**

Verses 7 - 8 **Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. 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.**

Jesus says to the Father that **now**, after 3 years, they are beginning to understand **that all things You gave Me are from You.** They **NOW** are beginning to understand, through Your **words** that you gave Me, that I came from You, why I came from You and that You, in fact, **sent Me.** The understood, as we have seen before, the redemptive plan of God in sending His Son to die as an atonement for the sins of the world of those that would believe.

And now they believe those words of the Father that came through the Son and are and will be acting on those words. They are a living example of **James 1: 22** **but be doers of the word and not hearer's only...** Jesus is saying to the Father, these are the elect, they are obedient to Your word, they have followed and obeyed and understand and believe that I came in the flesh, God in human form and that **I came forth from You.** And don't we as born again believers fit into that same category? Then in Verse 9 and following we begin to see what Jesus prays for the disciples.

Verses 9 – 10: I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours and Yours are Mine and I am glorified in them.

Jesus' prayer here is for His disciples and NOT **for the world** because these are the ones God gave to Christ and Christ knows that they are God's and that God will hear His prayer and take care of them because they are the obedient elect that know Him.

Does that mean that Jesus does not pray or care for the world, for the unsaved? No! This prayer is an intercessory prayer and it is for believers only. That does not mean that He does not love or care for unbelievers. He tells us in **Matthew 5: 44** to **love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you and PRAY for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.** But..

Jesus, only one time, prays for the unbelievers and that is when He is on the cross in **Luke 23: 34** **Father forgive them..** But He is also **not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance** as **2nd Peter 3: 9** says but this is an intercessory prayer and not an evangelistic call.

Jesus is praying for those who are the personal property of His and God's. That is why He says in Verse 9 **for they are Yours** and then in Verse 10 **all Mine are Yours and Yours are Mine.** The disciples, and us, are the personal property of God and Christ and Christ is praying for those that belong to both of them. And in that statement, Jesus is once again claiming His equality with God by saying 'everything that belongs to You belongs to Me and everything that belongs to Me belongs to You.'

Look what else Jesus says at the end of verse 10 **...and I am glorified in them.** Their recognition of who He is in His humanness brings glory to Him. When they recognize and confess and testify and proclaim Him, after His resurrection and when the Holy Spirit comes, when Christ comes, to live within them, they will continue to glorify Him even more.

That is why Jesus said in **Matthew 5: 16** **let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and (what) GLORIFY your Father in heaven.** And in **1st Corinthians 10: 31** it says **whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the GLORY of God.** That is why He says in Verse 11

Verse 11: **Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world..** Jesus talks as if this event has already taken place and the disciples are left in the world to glorify Him. And again, as we have seen, to glorify Christ is to put all of His attributes and character qualities on display through their lives, and that is His prayer to the Father for the disciples.

By the way, in **Verse 15** Jesus says **I do not pray that You should take them out of the world...** Two things that Jesus does not pray for in this passage; one is for the world and the other is for His disciples to be taken out of the sinless, God and Christ hating world. And the reason is, is we are the only light and glory of Christ that they can see. **Philippians 2: 15** says that **we are to shine as lights, show the glory of Christ, in the world.**

That is why we have been left here. Like **2nd Corinthians 5: 18 – 20** we have **been given the ministry of reconciliation and we are ambassadors for Christ.** Everything else God calls us to do we can do much better in heaven. *Explain*

Notice what Jesus prays for in Verse 11. **Holy Father keep through Your name those whom You have given Me that they may be one as We are .** Jesus says ‘I have kept them while I was here, now I am turning them back over to You while I am gone’. So He says **Keep tereo, guard, watch over, them through Your name.**

In other words, guard them, watch over them according to your divine perfect holy character and attributes, that is why He says **Holy Father**, which His **name** means, one of which is His faithfulness and truthfulness. God, You said You would take care of them, so take care of them because you are consistent with what you say.

I don't know about you, but that is a thrilling thing to think that Jesus is so concerned about His disciples and about us to go to the Father and call upon the Father's name to keep us. That is the love and grace and security that every believer has in Christ.

His prayer was **that they may be one as We are one**. Unified together as one, as we are one. One in common salvation and eternal life that binds every believer together as one, the common bond in Christ. And the oneness is a oneness of separation from the world that we have.

One writer said this “ the unity of invisible eternal life is implanted in Christ's followers is the foundation for a visible unity that crosses all organizational lines and that produces an effective gospel and testimony to the lost. It is produced by the Holy Spirit who indwells every believer...this spiritual unity of divine life produces a common love for the Lord a common commitment to His word a common affection for His people and a common separation from all that is ungodly and worldly” *MacArthur page 278 John*. Then Jesus says in Verse 12

Verse 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 is lost...

Jesus, talking specifically about the disciples here, says I have kept them according to Your name, according to Your holy character and attributes, because Jesus possesses those same attributes and character because He is God, and because of that I have lost none of them.

Remember what Jesus said back in **John 6: 37 & 39**, **all that the Father gives Me will come to Me and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.. this is the will of the Father who sent Me that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing...**

Then He says at the end of Verse 12 **except the son of perdition that the Scriptures might be fulfilled.** He is talking here about Judas and he is called the son of **perdition**. That word is used other places in scripture to refer to destruction, damnation, waste, or to die. Judas was lost **that the scriptures might be fulfilled.**

When the Apostles were looking for a replacement for Judas in **Acts 1: 15 – 20** it says **this Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas...** (*Psalm 69: 25, Psalm 109: 8*) The exact scripture that was fulfilled is in **Psalm 41: 9** which says **even My own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate My bread has lifted up his heel against Me.** Then **Psalm 109: 8** talks about another taking His office that Acts 1 referred to. Jesus then prays for His joy to be fulfilled in them in Verse 13

Verse 13: but now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

This is amazing. In the midst of what He is going through He prays for their joy to be fulfilled. But notice that it is a joy that only He can give, He says **that they may have MY joy.** Someone can have the worlds joy or the joy of circumstances but it is never a lasting fulfilling joy, it is temporary and deceiving and leaves one worse off. But the joy of Christ is fulfilling and brings contentment. Remember that He told them back in **John 15: 11** **these things I have spoken to you that My joy may remain in you and that your joy may be full.** And He said in **John 16: 22** that it is a joy **that no one can take from you.**

How is the joy of Christ fulfilled in us? Listen, when we know that He is interceding for us, when we know that we are God's gift of love to Him, when we know that He and the Father will keep us and unify us in salvation and that we can never lose that, that is a cause for celebration and joy.

Verse 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.

Jesus spoke the word of truth to the world and to His disciples and because of the truth of the word, the world hated Him and it hated His disciples, just like it hates believers today. Because the word goes against the grain of the world today just like it did then. They are convicted by it, they are challenged by it, they are rebuked by it and rather than humble themselves and receive it, they rebel against it and against anyone who shares it or preaches and teaches it.

But the disciples received the word and believed what Jesus said and that set them apart from the rest of the world and the world hated them because of it. No different than today.

Verse 15: I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

They are living in a hostile, God and Christ hating world because of the word of God and their belief and obedience and following of Christ. And as we have seen before this world is influenced and swayed by Satan. **1st John 5: 19** says **the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.** He is called the ruler of this world in **John 12: 31.**

So Jesus prays the Father to **keep** them, guard them, hold fast to them, so the wicked one, the devil, cannot harm them. He is praying for their spiritual well-being because the devil, **1st Peter 5: 8 is going around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.** He wants to destroy your testimony with Christ and He wants to destroy your saving faith. But He can't **John 10: 28 – 29** says, but he will try.

Remember Jesus told Peter in **Luke 22: 31 Simon, Simon, indeed Satan has asked for you that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you that your faith should not fail.** He is always looking to devour followers of Christ, to make their faith fail, any way he can. But I like what Luke said 'Satan has asked'. You want to know something? He can't do anything apart from God allowing it. Kind of like Job.

We have that same promise and intercessory work of Christ in our lives today. When Christ left, all the forces of hell would come against His disciples, whom **Verse 16** says **are not of the world**, they were called out and set apart, but they are still in the world, and so Jesus prays to the Father to keep them in the midst of that kind of spiritual attack. Then in Verse 17 – 18 Jesus prays for their sanctification in the midst of the hostile, sinful world in which they live.

Verses 17 – 19: sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

Jesus prays that the Father would **sanctify them** or set them apart from sin unto holiness, that is what sanctify means. The means of sanctification is **the word of truth**. The means to live in holiness and righteousness and apart from sin is through the word of God. **Psalm 119: 11 Your word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against You.**

And by the way, it is the word of **truth**. The Bible doesn't contain truth, it is truth. Every bit of this Bible, as we have seen, is God's absolute perfect and sufficient for sanctification truth. It is without error, without contradiction, it is accurate and without mistake. We saw the historical, scientific, archeological, prophetic accuracy of this book. And it is the same book that can set us apart from sin to holiness. **2nd Timothy 3: 16 – 17 ...all scripture..**

Only born again believers, sanctified by the word of God through the Spirit of God living within them can be sent into a world that hates them. Jesus says **for their sake**, the sake of the disciples, **I sanctify Myself**. He set Himself apart from the world by living a perfect sinless life that His disciples witnessed. He set Himself apart unto death so that the Holy Spirit could be sent to set them apart by the truth. That could not happen apart from Him dying and opening up the truth to them that will sanctify them and the truth they will share that will then sanctify others.

Jesus prayer, condensed, would sound something like this: "O Father, give them a consistent, holy oneness separate from the world. Don't let them blend in. Don't let them fall back. Give them a full joy in the knowledge of My love and Your love for them and our care. Provide complete and on-going protection from the evil one and all his forces. And finally, set them apart as pure and distinct as they come to know and live out the Word of God." *MacArthur GTY*

Jesus knows that all of this is God's will and will come to pass and yet He prays to the Father with a heart of compassion, care and concern and love for His disciples. But do you want to know something, that is the same heart with which He prays and intercedes for the same things for us even today.

Are you born again, if so are you experiencing the fullness of Christ's joy, are you confident in your secure salvation and protection from the evil one. Are you enjoying the oneness with Christ and letting His word dwell in your richly and are you living in purity, holiness and set apart from worldliness.

The Bible says friendship with the world is to be an enemy of God. **1st John 1: 15** says **do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**

We are in this world but we are not of this world.

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Introduction and Review:

Verse 6:

John 14: 9, John 5: 30, John 12: 45
Colossians 1: 15, Hebrews 1: 3, John 15: 19
John 14: 15, 21, John 8: 31

Verses 7 – 8:

James 1: 22

Verses 9 – 10:

Matthew 5: 16, 44, Luke 23: 34, 2nd Peter 3: 9
1st Corinthians 10: 31

Verse 11, 15:

Philippians 2: 15, 2nd Corinthians 5: 18 – 20

Verse 12:

John 6: 37 & 39, Acts 1: 15 – 20, Psalm 41: 9

Verse 13:

John 15: 11, John 16: 22

Verses 14 – 16:

1st John 5: 19, John 12: 31, 1st Peter 5: 8
John 10: 28 – 29, Luke 22: 31

Verses 17 – 19:

Psalm 119: 11, 2nd Timothy 3: 16 – 17, 1st Jn.1: 15

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