

John 17:1-5 – Jesus Prays For Himself

12/27/16 Tues Morn Study

JESUS PAID IT ALL – Elvina Hall; sung by Joslin Choral Society

*I hear the Savior say, "Thy strength indeed is small; Child of weakness, watch and pray, Find in Me thine all in all."
Refrain - Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe; Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.*

Lord, now indeed I find Thy power and Thine alone, Can change the leper's spots And melt the heart of stone. Refrain

*And when before the throne I stand in Him complete, "Jesus died my soul to save," My lips shall still repeat.
Refrain - Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe; Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.
He washed it white as snow.*

John 17:1-5 "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.

Context/Biblical Background – John Knox refers to this prayer as the "Holy of Holies in the Temple of Scriptures" Here we get to "eaves drop" on Jesus praying! We're able to understand the things that are the most important to Him! Note His promise: **Heb 7:25** *Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.* **We are promised that He is always praying for us. What is He praying? Here we get a glimpse of His praying?**

- **VS. 1-5** - John 17 culminates the discussion with His disciples in the Upper Room - John 13-14 and the continuing discussion in Chapters 15-16 as they make their way from the Upper Room to Gethsemane. Here we have Jesus praying for Himself! This "Holy Ground" chapter 17 – The Great High Priestly Prayer!
- **VS. 6-19** - Someone has aptly termed this chapter "The Holy of Holies of John's Gospel." We have the privilege of hearing the Son conversing with the Father. You could spend many weeks meditating on the truths in this chapter, but here we can only touch upon the highlights. Last time we had Jesus praying for Himself. Now we have Him praying for His disciples.
- **VS. 20-26** - the last two times we had Jesus praying for Himself and then for His disciples. Now as He finishes this prayer, He prays for us! Note His emphasis on unity!

Joh 17:1 Jesus spoke these words,

- This prayer Jesus prayed unto His God and Father, which is *the only long, continuous prayer of Jesus recorded in the Gospels*. The sentences are simple, but the ideas are deep, moving, and meaningful.
- There is something different in this prayer; Jesus did not pray just as He told His disciples to pray. This prayer is clearly no prayer of an inferior to a superior. The Two have but one mind. Where the Son speaks He is not seeking to bend The Father to Him: rather He is voicing the purpose of the Godhead."
- Jesus has an ongoing, present work of intercession for His people (*Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25*).

lifted up His eyes to heaven,

- This indicates the physical posture of Jesus as He prayed, one we don't usually associate with deep prayer.
- "In the sacred record, however, much more space is taken up by our Lords intercessions as He nears the end of His labors. After the closing supper, His public preaching work being ended, and nothing remaining to be done but to die, He gave himself wholly unto prayer. He was not again to instruct the multitude, nor to heal the sick, and in the interval which remained, before he should lay down his life, He girded himself for special intercession. He poured out His soul in life before He poured it out unto death." (Spurgeon)
- This remarkable prayer is made with a heart and mind looking up towards heaven. Jesus made no mention of His problems or the decisions He must make. His heart and mind were fixed on the highest things, pledging Himself to the absolutely fulfillment of God the Father's will no matter what the cost, so that eternal life could come to others.

and said: "Father, the hour has come.

- Before, Jesus' hour of glorification (beginning with His death) had not yet come. Mark 14:41; Joh 2:4; John 7:30; John 8:20; Joh 12:23; John 12:27; John 13:1;

- And now in John 17, "These words spoke Jesus, as He lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come." Now, the hour has come
- Note the words: *Father . . . Your Son . . . Your Son . . . You.* This is a prayer deep and rich with *relationship*. Jesus prayed with a full and deep sense of the relationship between God the *Father* and God the *Son*.

Glorify (8X in John 17) Your Son,

- *Glorify* - δοξάζω, doxazō, *dox-ad'-zo*, to render (or esteem) glorious (in a wide application): - (make) glorify (-ious), full of (have) glory, honor, magnify.
- This prayer of Jesus that the Father would glorify **the Son is really a prayer that He might go to the cross**
- *Your Son*: Jesus prayed first for Himself, but His petition was not selfish. His concern for Himself was actually a concern for the glory of the Father. The Son can only glorify the Father if the Father first answers the prayer of the Son, "Glorify Your Son."
- It will bring no glory to the Father if Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is not acceptable, or if the Son is not restored to his rightful place in the presence of the Fathers unshielded glory.
- *The hour has come . . . Glorify Your Son*: It is the *cross* (see John 12:27-33, 13:30-33, 21:18-19) that will glorify the Son. The cross was utter humiliation to the world, but it was an instrument of glorification in God's eyes. This is an aspect of the foolishness and weakness of the cross (*1 Corinthians 1:18, 1:23-25*).
- *This prayer was wonderfully answered.* Yes, the Father glorified his Son, even when it pleased Him to bruise Him and to put Him to grief. With one hand He smote, and with the other He glorified. There was a power to crush, but there was also a power to sustain working at the self-same time. The Father glorified His Son" (Spurgeon)

That (24X in John 17) Your Son also may glorify You,

- In its counter-intuitive work, the **cross glorified Jesus the Son and displayed the wisdom and the power of God** (*1 Corinthians 1:23-25*). Yet it *also* glorified God the Father, by displaying His wise plan and great sacrifice in giving the Son to do such a work. How does the cross bring glory to the Son and to the Father? It is only through the Cross of Calvary that we are able to understand His great love for us.
- ***Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***
- ***Rom 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?***
- That the Father would be known in this world as the One who demonstrated His great love for us by giving us His Son on the cross! - ***Rom 3:26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.***
- How could he save me without minimizing my sin? The cross was the way!!

As (10X in John 17) You have given Him authority over all flesh,

- Jesus claimed to have *authority over all flesh* with the ability to *give eternal life* to mankind. *This is a clear and startling claim to deity*; no One but God could truthfully and knowingly make this claim.
- Jesus here claimed authority to determine the ultimate destiny of me. This gives us new hope for evangelism and missionary work, knowing that Jesus has *authority over all flesh*. Even for those who reject Jesus or are ignorant of Him, even if *they* do not know it or acknowledge it, Jesus has *authority over* them. We can pray in faith and ask Jesus to exercise that authority over those who have yet to repent and believe.
- *Philippians 2:5-11* is a demonstration of this, that *all* will recognize the authority of Jesus; every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him,

- Jesus understood that He was and is the One who grants *eternal life* to those *given* to Him by the Father. We Christians often think of Jesus as God's gift to us; we rarely think of ourselves as God's gift to His Son.
- Notice that this is a gift – and what an awesome, awesome gift!

Joh 17:3 And *this is eternal life, that they may know (to arrive at a knowledge of something or someone, to know, to make acquaintance of - a relationship with God!!) You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

- Eternal life is found in an experiential knowledge (*ginosko*), a growing experience, a relationship, of both God the Father and Jesus Christ, God the Son.
- *Philippians 3:10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,*

- Eternal life means that we are alive and active to God's environment. If God and His spiritual environment does not affect and even dominate our life, then it can be said that we do not have or experience *eternal life*.
- Are you sure that you have eternal life? Cf. 1 John 5:11-13 Do you really know God and His Son Jesus Christ?
- Is Jesus glorified in us? Does Jesus shine brighter because of us? Do we darken or reflect His pure light?

Joh 17:4 I have glorified You on the earth.

- Jesus did not wait until the cross to glorify God the Father. **His entire life glorified God on the earth.**
- Jesus glorified the Father through His faith, obedience, and work through the years of His earthly ministry. Every sermon preached, every blind or sick person healed, every bit of instruction and training for the disciples, every confrontation with the corrupt religious leaders, every question answered, every loving touch - they all glorified God the Father.

I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. (What tremendously powerful statements!!)

- Jesus, with divine confidence/assurance, saw the work on the cross as already finished.
- Jesus has completed His task adequately, and brought glory to the Father in the process.
- Have you, have I, finished the work which we have been given to do here on earth?

Joh 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

- Christ prayed twice that He might be glorified. Why?-- that the Father might be glorified through the Son!
- Jesus asked the Father to glorify Him, but with the *same glory* that the Father Himself has. Jesus' prayer was in no way an expression of *independence*, but of utter and continued dependence upon God the Father.
- Jesus was aware of His pre-existence, and of the nature of that pre-existence. Jesus understood there was a time in eternity past when God the Son and God the Father enjoyed a shared glory.
- He is longing to be restored to His former glory – that glory, indescribable, which He had before the world was!

SUMMARY – JESUS PRAYING FOR HIMSELF (VS. 1-5):

- Meditate, pray for understanding of this awesome prayer of Jesus -- the prayer of prayers!
- Note well that the Father is glorified by the Son through His finished work on the cross, that we may live!
- Our purpose for our life is to glorify the Lord and to glorify Him completely!! **Am I bringing glory to Him through my prayers? In my heart? In my thoughts?**

John 17:6-19 – Jesus Prays For His Disciples – The Eleven

Great example and application for us—Jesus praying for His disciples-later vs. 20-26 future believers, but these petitions for His disciples also fit us perfectly! Jesus has disclosed, shown, revealed the Father's name to us – the very nature of God! Jesus is praying for His own and not for the world – He does include the world in v. 20. In fact, the word “world” is mentioned 18X in this prayer.

- He prays for their security.
- He prays for those that were given him, meaning primarily the disciples that had attended him in this *regeneration*; but it is doubtless to be extended further, to all who come under the same character, who receive and believe the words of Christ, Joh_17:6, Joh_17:8.
- He prays for all that should believe on him (Joh_17:20), and it is not only the petitions that follow, but those also which went before, that must be construed to extend to all believers, in every place and every age; for He has a concern for them all, and calls *things that are not as though they were*. What encouragement He had to pray for them, and what are the general pleas with which He introduces His petitions for them, and recommends them to His Father's favor;

John 17:6-10:

John 17:6 "I have manifested (phanero - disclosed, shown, revealed) Your name- "I have manifested Thy name" means "I have revealed the nature of God." - to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. **They were Yours, You gave them to Me, 1** The charge he had received concerning them: **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** 2. The care he had taken of them to teach them; **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."** - With all of their failures and faults, the disciples still receive this word of commendation: "I am glorified in them."

they are five petitions here: -

- He prays The charge He had received concerning them: They were Yours, You gave them to Me, (Joh_17:6), and again (Joh_17:9),
- He prays for all that should believe on Him (Joh_17:20),
- The good effect of the care He had taken of them, and the pains He had taken with them, (Joh_17:6): they have kept Your word. (Joh_17:7), they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. (Joh_17:8);
- He pleads the Father's own interest in them I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. (Joh_17:9):
- He pleads His own concern in them: I am glorified (dedoxasmai) in them.- (Jon 17:10)

John 17:11-19

John 17:11 Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through (or "in") 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. (Joh 15:11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.) [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. (Mat 6:13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us 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.

THREE PETITIONS

- they may be one as We are.
- that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. (Joh 15:11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.)
- that You should keep them from the evil one. (Mat 6:13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.)
- **WORLD (10X)** - Jesus' work in the world as Savior is complete. He is leaving-for now!
- He shows His compassion for the believers left here to work until we're taken out of the world. "Let us go forth outside the camp, bearing His reproach"
- He prays for unity among the believers.
- He prays that His joy may remain in us and abound more and more in us (believers).
- He prays for our protection from the evil one—much like the model prayer "deliver us from the evil one"
- Notice what they may be one as We are. (we tend toward disunity!!)
- that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. (Joh 15:11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.) (we tend to lose heart and His joy-become discouraged and impotent believers)
- that You should keep them from the evil one. (Mat 6:13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.) (Watch and pray, lest you fall into temptation!)

SUMMARY – JESUS PRAYING FOR HIS DISCIPLES (VS. 6-19):

- **When in severe crisis:** State your situation to the Lord- Okay to ask how to pray-
- **Save me (not keep me from) this hour. But our purpose for our life is to glorify the Lord!!**
- **We want to pray for the lost. To have our touch with the world as light as possible**
- **The Word of God is true! Jesus prays for us to be sanctified, set apart, by Your truth!**

John 17:20-26 – Jesus Prays For Us – Those who will believe in Me Through Their Word!!

John 17:20-26 "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 (want exceedingly) 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."

SEVEN PETITIONS:

- *that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; (Joh 17:21)*
- *that they also may be one in Us (Joh 17:21)*
- *that they may be one just as We are one: (Joh 17:22)*
- *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. (Joh 17:23)*
- *"...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. (Joh 17:24)*
- *that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them." (Joh 17:26)*

SUMMARY – JESUS PRAYING FOR HIS DISCIPLES (VS. 20-26):

- ❖ **ABOVE ALL HE IS PRAYING FOR UNITY FOR US!**
- ❖ **HE KNOWS OUR SELFISHNESS, COMPETITIVENESS, SELF RIGHTEOUSNESS**
- ❖ **WE HAVE; SAME SAVIOR; SAME GLORY; SAME HEAVEN; SAME FATHER; SAME INHERITANCE; AND THE SAME WORK!!!**
- ❖ **THE WORLD DOES NOT KNOW HIM**
- ❖ **WE ARE TO SHOW HIS LOVE TO THE WORLD FOR THEM; TRUTH IN LOVE!**

October 08, Evening's Meditation C. H. Spurgeon

"Praying in the Holy Ghost."—Jude 20.



ARK the grand characteristic of true prayer—"In the Holy Ghost." The seed of acceptable devotion must come from heaven's storehouse. Only the prayer which comes from God can go to God. We must shoot the Lord's arrows back to Him. That desire which He writes upon our heart will move His heart and bring down a blessing, but the desires of the flesh have no power with Him.

Praying in the Holy Ghost is **praying in fervency**. Cold prayers ask the Lord not to hear them. Those who do not plead with fervency, plead not at all. As well speak of lukewarm fire as of lukewarm prayer—it is essential that it be red hot.

It is **praying perseveringly**. The true suppliant gathers force as he proceeds, and grows more fervent when God delays to answer. The longer the gate is closed, the more vehemently does he use the knocker, and the longer the angel lingers the more resolved is he that he will never let him go without the blessing. Beautiful in God's sight is tearful, agonizing, unconquerable importunity.

It means **praying humbly**, for the Holy Spirit never puffs us up with pride. It is His office to convince of sin, and so to bow us down in contrition and brokenness of spirit. We shall never sing *Gloria in excelsis* except we pray to God *De profundis*: out of the depths must we cry, or we shall never behold glory in the highest.

It is **loving prayer**. Prayer should be perfumed with love, saturated with love—love to our fellow saints, and love to Christ.

Moreover, it must be a **prayer full of faith**. A man prevails only as he believes. The Holy Spirit is the author of faith, and strengthens it, so that we pray believing God's promise. O that this blessed combination of excellent graces, priceless and sweet as the spices of the merchant, might be fragrant within us because the Holy Ghost is in our hearts! Most blessed Comforter, exert Thy mighty power within us, helping our infirmities in prayer.

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