

**Message Notes – John 17:20-26 Jesus Prays for all Believers – Including You!**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**INTRODUCTION:**

In John 17 is the longest and most complete prayer of Jesus in the Bible. It's frequently referred to as the Great High Priestly Prayer! John Knox called it - "the Holy of Holies in the temple of Scripture"

Jesus praying to the Father! The Holy Spirit allows us to come and listen in on the prayer!

So priceless – we're able to understand the things that are most important to Him!

In *Hebrews 7:25* we are told "*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*". This means that Jesus is praying for you and for me even right now! Do you ever wonder what He might be praying as He prays for you? What you're facing and what you're in the middle of! What's He praying for me? To be a millionaire; to be famous? On material things, worldly things?

Jesus is at the right hand of the Father, He's praying for me! Here we have an insight really into the "holy of holies" into Jesus' heart as He prays for us!

**JESUS PRAYS FOR US!:**

**JESUS SAVES US!** *Joh 17:2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give (Notice it's a gift!) eternal life to as many as You have given Him.*

**JESUS KEEPS US!** *Joh 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 Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one....*

*Joh 17:12 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.*

*Joh 17:15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.*

**JESUS SANCTIFIES US!** *Joh 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*

*Joh 17:19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.*

**JESUS UNIFIES US**, by praying for our unity!

**JOHN SEVENTEEN – THE GREAT HIGH PRIESTLY PRAYER:**

**VERSES 1-5 – JESUS PRAYS FOR HIMSELF!**

**\*\*\*\*Read John 17 verses 1-5!!**

*Joh 17:1 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,*

*Joh 17:2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.*

**ETERNAL LIFE IS A GIFT!**

*Joh 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

**NOTE THE WORD "KNOW" A KNOWLEDGE THAT COMES BY EXPERIENCE. DEMONS KNOW OF GOD BUT NOT ONE WILL BE SAVED. TO BE SAVED IS TO ENTER A RELATIONSHIP WITH BOTH FATHER AND SON!**

*Joh 17:4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.*  
**GOING TO THE CROSS IS AS GOOD AS DONE!**

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

**GREAT HUMBLING VERSE! GREAT EMOTION! LOOKING AT THE CROSS, JESUS IS LONGING TO ONCE AGAIN BE CLOTHED WITH HIS ETERNAL GLORY! HE ENDURED THE CROSS, DESPISING THE SHAME! ONLY HE KNEW AT THAT MOMENT WHAT HE HAD LEFT. ALL CREATION GROANS FOR THE DAY OF REDEMPTION. AN AMAZING THING WHAT HE LAID ASIDE TO SAVE YOU AND TO SAVE ME!**

### **VERSES 6-19 - HE PRAYS FOR THE ELEVEN APOSTLES**

#### **\*\*\*\*Read John 17 verses 6-19!!**

*Joh 17:6 "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.*

*Joh 17:7 Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You.*

*Joh 17:8 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.*

**HE SPEAKS TO THE FATHER AS TO WHAT THE DISCIPLES HAVE LEARNED. A BLESSING TO JESUS RE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISCIPLES LIVES.**

**JESUS BEGINS TO PRAY FOR THEM! 2 THINGS –**

**1) THAT THE FATHER WOULD KEEP THEM!- FOR THEIR SECURITY! HE'S NOT JUST A SAVING GOD, BUT ALSO A KEEPING GOD! KEEPING THEM IN THE MIDST OF PERSECUTION!**

*Joh 17:9 "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.*

*Joh 17:10 And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.*

*Joh 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 Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.*

*Joh 17:12 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.*

*Joh 17:13 But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.*

*Joh 17:14 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.*

*Joh 17:15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. FROM THE CONTEXT OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE!*

*Joh 17:16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*

#### **NUMBER 2 – HE PRAYS FOR THEIR SANCTIFICATION**

**(HE HAS THE CONCERN THAT THEY WOULD BE KEPT AND THAT THEY WOULD BE HOLY!!)**

**TO KEEP US HOLY IN THIS WORLD!**

*Joh 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*

**IMMEDIATELY HE PRAYS ABOUT THE WORD OF GOD. THE WORD CLEANSSES US AS WE WALK THROUGH THIS WORLD. WE GET DIRTY. SO WE GET DIRTY, CAKING ON THE INSIDE, THE HEART, THE MIND. WE WASH IT THOUGH THE WORD OF GOD! EVERYTIME WE READ THE WORD OF GOD WE ARE TAKING A BATH ON THE INSIDE!**

*Joh 17:18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.*

**JESUS HAS SENT US INTO THE WORLD TO DO HIS WORK! AT LEAST THERE IS ONE MORE PERSON IN THE WORLD WHO NEEDS TO BE SAVED! WHEN THAT HAPPENS OUR WORK IS DONE, AND WE'RE OUT OF HERE.**

**PART OF THE SANCTIFIED LIFE IS TO SERVE THE LORD!**

*Joh 17:19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.*

**VERSES 20-26 NOW JESUS PRAYS FOR THE FUTURE BELIEVERS – FOR YOU AND FOR ME!**

**AND WHAT IS IT THAT CHRIST ASKS ON BEHALF OF HIS FOLLOWERS? THE GREATEST OF BLESSINGS: UNITY, PEACE, LOVE AND ETERNAL GLORY.**

**\*\*\*Read John 17 verses 20-26!!**

**Read verses 20-26!!**

*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 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."*

*Joh 17:20 "I do not pray for these alone (NOT JUST THE ELEVEN), but also for those who will believe in Me through their word (THROUGH THE APOSTLES WITNESS – HIS CHOSEN MESSENGERS); - THAT'S YOU AND ME!*

**NOW JESUS BEGINS TO PRAY FOR US, WHO BELIEVE! WHAT DOES HE PRAY FOR – LOOKING AT LEAST 2000 YEARS INTO THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH!**

*Joh 17:21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You;*

**FIRST, THAT THEY ALL MAY BE ONE - FOR THE UNITY OF THE BODY OF CHRIST, ONE WITH ONE ANOTHER:**

**TO THE DEGREE AS THE FATHER AND THE SON ARE ONE, BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

**TO GROW IN THE APPRECIATION OF THE DIVERSITY OF THE BODY OF CHRIST! NOT TO EMPHASIZE THE DIFFERENCES. NO ONE SINGLE CHURCH CAN HAPPEN. THEY ARE ALL DIFFERENT BY MAKEUP.**

**OBSERVERS MUST CONCLUDE THAT ONLY GOD CAN CAUSE THAT COMPLETE TOGETHERNESS.**

**A DESIRE TO BE ONE IN ORDER THAT WHEN ONE LOOKS AT THE DIVERSITY IN CHRIST AND SEES THAT IT'S ALL HELD TOGETHER IN LOVE, THEY SEE SOMETHING SUPERNATURAL BEHIND THAT.**

**THE UNITY IS A WITNESS TO THE WORLD THAT HE IS ALL HE SAYS HE IS!**

*that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. Joh 17:22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: Joh 17:23 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,*

**SECOND REASON FOR THE UNITY "that the world may know that You have sent Me", - NOT ONLY A WITNESS, BUT WHEN THE WORLD SEES THE BLESSINGS THAT THE LORD POURS OUT ON THAT KIND OF UNITY OF A MOST DIVERSE BODY, THE WORLD MAY SEE THE DEPTH OF THE LOVE THAT GOD HAS FOR HIS BODY**

*and have loved them as You have loved Me.*

*John 17:24 "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.*

**HE NOT ONLY PRAYS FOR UNITY THAT GIVES HIS DESIRE BUT ALSO THAT HIS BODY OF BELIEVERS WILL BE WITH HIM WHERE HE IS. HE LONGS FOR US TO BE WITH HIM TO BEHOLD HIS GLORY.**

**HOW HE LONGS FOR THE DAY WHEN HE WILL SHARE THAT GLORY WITH YOU!**

*Joh 17:25 O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You;*

*and these have known that You sent Me.*

*Joh 17:26 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."*

**SUMMARY OF HIS PRAYER FOR ALL BELIEVERS INCLUDING US!**

- **FOR OUR UNITY WITH ONE ANOTHER AND WITH THE FATHER AND THE SON!**
- **FOR THE DAY THAT WE'LL BE IN HEAVEN WITH HIM! FOR OUR PRESENCE WITH HIM-HOW HE LONGS FOR THE DAY WHEN HE'LL SHARE HIS GLORY WITH YOU!**
- **THAT WE WOULD BE KNOWN FOR LOVE – FOR LOVE TO BE SEEN IN OUR LIVES. THAT LOVE IN US, *that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, (HOW CAN THAT BE IN US?) and I in them.*"**
- **THROUGH HIS DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION, THE SPIRIT NOW IS IN US, HIS LOVE DWELLING IN US BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**THIS PRAYER IS A REVELATION OF THE FATHER'S HEART AND WHAT IS ON JESUS' HEART:**

- **THAT WE'LL LIVE FOR GOD'S GLORY**
- **TO HAVE THE ASSURANCE NOT ONLY HIS SAVING US, BUT HIS KEEPING US -**  
*Jude v.24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy*
- **THAT WE WOULD LIVE A SANCTIFIED LIFE.**
- **THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE TO SERVE THE LORD AND NOT TO LOSE SIGHT THAT THE WORK IS NOT DONE.**
- **HIS CONCERN FOR THE UNITY OF THE BODY OF CHRIST**
- **HIS CONCERN AND DESIRE THAT THE LOVE OF JESUS WOULD BE IN US AND MARK OUR LIVES**

If Jesus were to walk into this room tonight and lay His hands on my head and my shoulders, what would He pray? What would be important to Him?

Those would be the things that He would pray over you and me.

I think it's an astonishing revelation of the heart of God toward us and of the things that are most important in this life! A beautiful, beautiful prayer!

**NOW WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE TO JESUS PRAYING FOR YOU?**

**IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW, ARE YOU HELPING THE FULFILLMENT OF JESUS' PRAYERS FOR YOU? OR**

**ARE YOU HINDERING WHAT HE WANTS TO DO IN YOUR LIFE?**

**OH MAY WE REMOVE ANYTHING THAT IS HINDERING HIS WORK IN US TO BE DONE! WITH REGARD TO OUR SELF WILL MAY OUR POSITION ALWAYS BE: NOT MY WILL BY YOUR WILL BE DONE!**

**CLOSING PRAYER**