

## **Jesus Prays for His Disciples**

### **John 17:6-11**

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. 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; 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. NKJV

In His prayer Jesus quickly moves from praying for Himself to praying for His disciples. Even though He would undergo such terrible trials in the next few hours yet He spends the precious time He has to once again lift His disciples before God.

One of the great secrets of prayer is that God didn't design prayer to be for our selves nearly as much as He meant us to pray for others.

We also need to see who it is that Jesus is praying for. What is Jesus relationship to them? And as we look at this prayer, this is the first question that we come to.

#### I. Who is Jesus praying for?

- A. Those to whom He had manifested God's name to. *I have manifested Your name to the men*
  - 1. They had been given a special revelation of God from Jesus.
  - 2. They could have never come to this knowledge on their own.
  - 3. That is why Jesus had come into the world, to reveal the Father to mankind in a way that no one else had or ever could have done.
  - 4. John 1:18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him. NKJV
  - 5. Many people sit in church pews year after year and never hear of Jesus because they cannot hear.
  - 6. Mt 13:14 (NKJV) And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; 15 For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'
  - 7. It takes a special revelation from God to break through the hard heart of the sinner.
  - 8. Acts 16:13-15 13 And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the

riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. 14 Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. NKJV

9. In the same way Jesus had manifested God's name to these disciples while others remained in darkness.
  10. John 15:16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. NKJV
- B. Those given to the Son by the Father. *I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world*
1. *They were Yours*
    - a. Now it is true that all things belong to God.
    - b. Every human, every animal, every blade of grass, ever molecule and atom.
    - c. But there is something more involved here.
    - d. Several times in this passage Jesus refers to the disciples as being particularly belonging to the Father.
    - e. We must assume that this speaks of a special relationship that the general population did not enjoy.
  2. You gave them to Me
    - a. One of the things this tells me is that these disciples who Jesus had invested so much time in over the last 3 ½ years belonged to the Father.
      - (1) Every pastor must realize that his parishioners are not so much his as they belong to God.
      - (2) These disciples would forsake Jesus and flee, some even denying that they know Him.
      - (3) But still they are God's responsibility, that is why Jesus is praying for them.
    - b. Gave them to Me
      - (1) Several times in this passage Jesus refers to these disciples as have been given to Him by the Father.
        - (a) 2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh,

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

- (b) 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.
- (c) 9 I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.
- (d) 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.
- (e) 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.

(2) So there is this special sense in which these belonged to the Father and the Father gave them to the Son for the Son to declare to them the things concerning God the Father.

c. Out of the world.

- (1) The disciples had been a part of the world, but now had been given to the Son to bring them out of the world.
- (2) They would no longer be of the world, even as Jesus was not of the world.

C. Those who have been changed.

- 1. They have kept Your word
  - a. Obviously not perfectly but with the heart.
  - b. There is a love for God that causes us to love His word.
    - (1) I thought I had lost my mothers diaries.
- 2. 7 Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You.
  - a. They knew that Jesus was sent by the Father and was the Son of God.
- 3. 8 For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they

have received them,

- a. Another way of saying they follow the sayings of Jesus.
- b. The love that we have for Him compels us.

(1) 2 Cor 5:14 For the love of Christ compels us NKJV

4. And have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

- a. Faith is the key.
- b. Without it we cannot please God.
- c. Ro 5:1 (NKJV) Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

D. Not the world as a whole, 9 *"I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.*

1. It is not that Jesus is not concerned about all the others in the world.

- a. It is just that now His special attention is turned to these disciples who will face such trials are in need of His prayers.

2. Intercessory prayer.

- a. Under the law of Moses people could not come to God except through a priest.
- b. The most important priest was the high priest.
- c. For us Jesus is that high priest.

(1) Heb 2:17 (NKJV) Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

(2) Heb 3:1 (NKJV) Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,

(3) Heb 4:14 (NKJV) Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

(4) Heb 4:15 (NKJV) For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

(5) Heb 5:1 (NKJV) For every high priest taken from among

men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.

- (6) Heb 5:5 (NKJV) So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You."
- (7) Heb 5:10 (NKJV) called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek,"
- (8) Heb 6:20 (NKJV) where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.
- (9) Heb 7:26 (NKJV) For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;
- (10) Heb 8:1 (NKJV) Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,
- (11) Heb 8:3 (NKJV) For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer.
- (12) Heb 9:7 (NKJV) But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance;
- (13) Heb 9:11 (NKJV) But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.
- (14) Heb 9:25 (NKJV) not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another--
- (15) Heb 10:21 (NKJV) and having a High Priest over the house of God,
- (16) Heb 13:11 (NKJV) For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp.

d. Jesus ever lives to make intercession for His people.

- (1) Heb 7:23-25 23 Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. 24 But He,

because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. 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. NKJV

II. These disciples will bring glory to the Son and the Father.

A. 10 *And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.*

1. Here is our part, to glorify God with our lives.
2. How are we doing at that.