

What Jesus Prays for His Disciples - II

John 17:11-19

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. 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. 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. 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. NKJV

We were only able to complete about half the message last week. So we pick up where we left off.

Jesus is praying for His disciples and He has some very specific things that He prays for them.

He has prayed that the Father might keep them, watch out over them as Jesus has done during His ministry.

He has prayed for their unity, that they might be one.

- I. He prays for their joy
 - A. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.
 - B. The world has a very warped view of joy.
 1. Much of the world's joy will later bring shame or sorrow.
 2. The children of Israel displayed joy as they worshiped the golden calf which Aaron made for them at Mt. Sinai but later they payed dearly for their indulgences.
 3. The joy that Satan offers will always bring death in the end, while the joy that God offers will bring life.
 4. The state of Illinois offers joy if you win the lottery.
 5. The stock market traders offer joy when the Dow Jones is on the way up.
 6. But none of those things can give us the real joy we desire.
 - C. The only truly happy being in the universe is God.
 1. He is holy and completely fulfilled in Himself.

2. God never has any regrets or disappointments.
 3. Because He is holy and righteous He is full of joy.
- D. Jesus offers joy and prays that the apostles might have that joy fulfilled in themselves.
1. And they had it.
 2. Having been beaten and threatened by the Jews they went away rejoicing.
 3. Paul said in Col 1:24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you NKJV
 4. Peter said in 1 Peter 1:6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, NKJV
- E. *I have given them Your word;*
1. God's word is the key to our continued joy.
 2. It is in keeping it that we have real joy that will never turn sour.
 3. This is mentioned here for this purpose to let us know that God's word is meant to be a light to a joyful path, a guide to a joyful life.
 4. I have yet to hear someone say I followed God's word and now look at the shape I am in.
 5. But I have heard many say they wished they had kept the word of God and how much better their lives were.
- F. *The world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*
1. Now the world doesn't like it that we go a different way from them.
 2. They do not like it when we warn them of the sorrow they will face if they do not repent.
 3. They will use every trick in the book to bring you over to their side, if they cannot they will try to destroy you for light and darkness cannot exist together.
- II. He does not pray that they be removed from the world
- A. *I do not pray that You should take them out of the world*
- B. It would seem easier that once you became a Christian that God just bring you home.
1. But that is not the plan of God.
 2. We are to be light and salt.

3. Light to put away the darkness of this evil world.
 4. Salt to preserve that which is rotting in a corrupt society.
- C. Some in the past have went into monasteries to separate from the world.
1. But that was not God's plan.
 2. God wants us mixed up in the world for the world's good.
 3. Jesus tells the disciples and prays it here, that as the Father has sent the Son into the world so Jesus has sent His disciples.
 4. We are the only hope this old world has.
 5. We are ambassadors for the kingdom of Jesus Christ calling all to be reconciled to God.
 - a. 2Co 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men;

18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
 - b. That is our mission, our message, our life while we sojourn in this world.

The example of Esther is appropriate.